FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ANNIVERSARY OF FALKLANDS INVASION NOTED

Alfonsin Speaks

PY021544 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1447 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Speech by President Raul Ricardo Alfonsin at the inauguration of a monument to those who fell in the Falkland Islands on the second anniversary of the war at a ceremony in Lujan -- live]

[Text] The date that gathers us here today, 2 April, is one with dual significance: a historical significance, because the war broke out, our dead are under the soil or in our southern seas, and the events became part of history; and also a very deep emotional significance, because there is no doubt that the Malvinas war has entered into the hearts of us Argentines.

Today, on 2 April, I come here to commemorate before this monument our fallen in battle, those valiant Argentines who gave their lives or courageously risked their lives in that southern part of the fatherland.

It is true that the government which decided to use force did not realize the tremendous consequences of its action, but it is equally true that the ideal that encouraged our soldiers was, is, and will be the ideal of all Argentine generations: the definitive recovery of the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. [applause]

The greatness of republican life is marked with the virtuous acts of the citizens. Our combatants were good in life, unselfish in the struggle, long-suffering in pain, stoical in defeat, immortal in death. Many citizens in uniform may not have wished to leave their bodies among the rocks, turf, and snow, after having fought with effort and courage. But God chose his heroes from among the valiant and the brave, the suffering and the distressed. He chose those whom we are honoring today.

Those dead whom we are honoring today were anointed by misfortune, they have no laurels of victory, but they are a living lesson of sacrifice on the hard road of fulfilling a duty. Their bodies remain there, but they are not alone. They are accompanied by the blood of the wounded, the suffering of the sick, the sorrow of the unhurt, and the memory of the whole country, because they were all worthy to speak the words that a poet put in the mouth of a dying champion of American freedom: I only know that this cruel land is my land. May God give me a strong arm and a great heart to die for the fatherland. [applause]

The sacrifice was not in vain, because today the Argentine people and Government not only can feel the power of that unrenounceable purpose, but are also convinced that the tragic deaths further strengthen the conviction we hold about the justice of our rights. The strength of this conviction has no time limit, it reaches beyond any deadline. If someone ever thought that the passage of time would fade the Argentine conviction of its rights, he should now erase that thought because the passage of time will never weaken or lessen our belief nor the firmness of our decision to have a just and definitive solution. This conviction is the beacon of our actions. The messages we have sent to the British Government reflect that conviction.

It is up to the British Government to understand that just as we are sure of our rights, we are also convinced that we shall be able to achieve due recognition [of our rights] through peaceful means, through negotiations, through dialogue, and through understanding. We believe that deeds can reflect good will and we hope that the United Kingdom will carry out those deeds that will reflect their good will. [applause]

We shall continue to insist on our willingness to hold a dialogue, a dialogue that would be instrumental in exchanging ideas, in clarifying possibilities, in offering ample guarantees to the British inhabitants of the southern archipelagos, in easing tension, and in demilitarizing the area, and to explore sincerely those prospects that will allow us to undertake serious negotiations over Argentina's authentic and sovereign rights.

We will particularly insist on demilitarization because we have no doubt that the armed presence of the United Kingdom, which has been aggravated by the introduction of nuclear weapons, poses a serious threat which not only affects the security of Argentina but of the entire South Atlantic area. The danger posed by the massive and disproportionate presence of forces in the South Atlantic Ocean turns a region that has traditionally been detached from the great strategic theaters of the East-West conflict into a fuse for possible confrontations, with consequences for Argentina and all Latin America. All these truthful reasons have begun to gain ground not only in friendly countries but also among the British.

They have begun to understand that stewardship cannot be maintained over anachronistic colonial situations, and that such an attitude goes against the grain of the British decolonization policy. They are just as aware of the importance the reestablishment of the bonds between the Argentine and British peoples has, a reestablishment that cannot be affected by the interests of certain sectors in that country.

I cannot continue without mentioning the solidarity that Latin America and the majority of the international community showed for our cause. Today we wish to reassert our gratitude for their support. We are certain that they will continue to support us since the Malvinas cause is also a Latin American cause. But it is also the cause of all those countries struggling to eradicate colonialism in the entire world. It is not possible for colonies to continue to exist in the Americas. It is not possible for us to witness efforts to perpetuate the appropriation of land in the Americas.

Let us mediate today at this monument in honor of our dead in the Malvinas and the South Atlantic. This is a painful anniversary but it is one that we commemorate with the wisdom that comes from pain. The dead of Puerto Argentino, of the Belgrano, of the Georgias, and of many other places of our fatherland and of the southern seas, the dead heroes of our skies, demand this honor.

I beg my fellow Argentine citizens to honor those who died in the war by being silent. This silence will be the way in which we honor those who made it possible for us to feel proud and honored by being Argentines. [applause]

Incidents Mark Veterans March

PY030317 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0130 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (NA) -- The veterans of the Malvinas War marched today, with approximately 20,000 other people, through the downtown streets of this capital chanting hostile slogans against the military junta that made the decision to occupy the archipelago on 2 April 1982. The demonstration concluded with the destruction of a bust of the English minister, Canning, the breaking of windows and installations at the Tower of the English, and the beginnings of a fire that was put out by several units of firemen. Approximately 1,500 veterans, dressed in the rags of their combat fatigues -- with some of them supporting themselves on crutches or the shoulders of their comrades -- headed the march from the obelisk to the plaza, a distance of approximately 20 blocks.

The march was organized by the Malvinas Veterans Center and it was characterized by friction between the opposing political groups and a general disorderliness. Supporting the march were youth sectors of the Justicialist and Intransigent Parties, the Movement Toward Socialism, and the majority of the youth sectors from other parties and from labor organizations.

The slow marching of the caravan, which marched along Corrientes Avenue to Leandro Alem Avenue and then on to Plaza Retiro, was permanently applauded along the way by the people who gathered on the sidewalk.

At the foot of the Tower of the English, the veterans sang the national anthem and maintained a minute's silence honoring their fallen comrades. Afterward, they shouted out the names of the fallen soldiers, to which the crowd answered with a thunderous "present."

Groups of nonveteran demonstrators broke the windows of the tower, while other groups entered the premises and destroyed the installations. The veterans repeatedly tried to persuade the rebellious groups (?not) to burn the monument, while another group, which was not identified, destroyed the bust of former British Foreign Minister Canning. As these groups, which the veterans identified as "unemployed" people, persisted in carrying out their action, most of the demonstrators left.

At the end of the demonstration, the troublemakers set fire to the furniture on the tower's ground floor. This caused the intervention of policemen and of firemen of the central fire brigade who put out the fire. A group of veterans told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that before the demonstration they had been warned that the tower would be burned, but said that they had been unable to identify the anonymous calls.

Bank Employees Burn Flags

PY030243 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1750 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (DYN) -- Approximately 100 employees of the Bank of the Province of Buenos Aires main offices carried out a symbolic act at noon today commemorating Argentina's heroic deed in the Malvinas Islands. Medals were given to the war veterans who work for the bank during the act and British and U.S. flags were burned in front of an agency of the Bank of London and South America.

The act was organized by the bank's internal Labor Commission and it was held in the main hall of the bank's main premises. The employees sang the national anthem and observed a minute of silence in honor of those who fell during the war. They then went to the agency of the Bank of London, located 100 meters away, where they burned the flags. The police did not intervene and the demonstrators broke up quickly and in perfect order. There were no incidents.

CAPUTO ON C.A. SITUATION, POSSIBLE OUTCOME

PY301545 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0002 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Mar (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has said that here in Argentina it is not a question of selecting ideological options, it is a question of foreseeing critical situations that can place the national interest in danger, and that interest today is called the stabilization of the system, the take off of productive activities, and the improvement of the welfare of our people. Caputo, during his talk at the El Ombu Club on the guidelines of Argentina's international policy, made it perfectly clear that he would not talk about the more burning issues of the foreign policy, but he would talk about the political thinking behind Foreign Ministry policies.

To achieve this, the chief of San Martin Palace referred to the Central American situation, where regrettably the possibilities of a peaceful solution to the situation are disappearing daily, and to the process of speculation of the international financial system, especially during the 1970's.

Regarding the first topic, Caputo said that on the immediate horizon the most evident danger comes from the Central American situation and it is within the context of those things that should not happen to us again. Therefore, I consider it necessary to explain the ultimate content of our political position in the Central American situation. In order to do so, he outlined the possibilities if there is a large military escalation, which in his opinion could happen for four [figure as received] different reasons: the expansion of the internal conflict in each of the region's countries; the intervention of the United States or the Soviet bloc; and the intervention of one Central American state in the internal affairs of another.

"It is true," he added, "and this fact is known by everyone, that all these causes have to be in combination. And why does this situation concern the Argentines? Why, when there are so many immediate problems, are we going to involve ourselves in a situation that some people could judge as foreign to our interests? It is very necessary to give a very clear answer to all of this." In order to do so, he outlined some conjectures. "What will most probably happen," he said, "is that if an international conflict should break out there it will not be brief, nor will it be limited by geography. The military capability of countries is very important and the lines of supply of the two blocs will keep the conflict going. In other words, we will have an extended conflict over extensive territory.

"In view of this, we will have a series of consequences that must be very clear in our minds: In the first place, we would have sister countries subject to the disasters of war. Of course it would be a much more devastating and cruel war than the one that exists in that area today, and if we recall the Malvinas war and the solidarity that we received on that occasion, then our obligation with the peoples of Latin America is greater than ever," the foreign minister said.

But, he then warned that above and beyond the reason of solidarity there may be other more egotistical reasons. A Vietnamization of Central America would cause a deep division in the public opinion of all Latin American countries and the consequences of the East-West confrontation that took place in our country and many others in Latin America would be reborn in another form.

He added that because of the existence of a conflict of this nature, all the margins for maneuvering, the degree of freedom with which Latin American governments could move, would be notably reduced; we would be subject to serious confrontations and the sovereign capability of our states would be lost. He said that he did not believe that this situation of internal convulsion is being evaluated in a negative form by some countries outside of the continent, countries that may view the United States questioning everything from Mexico to Tierra del Fuego.

"This is our problem, it is not foreign," the foreign minister concluded in this respect, "and it is an obligation to foresee it. It is a logical point of a foreign policy that is simply not willing to be subjected to the evolution of the events.

"The other concrete example is what happened to us from abroad, and it refers to the consequences of the overall process of financial speculation in the international financial system, which found green fields for its development in our country. The scope of the speculation in Argentina," Caputo said, "and the enormous debt that has been contracted without the growth of internal capital cannot be explained exclusively by internal reasons; there were national sectors that joined a worldwide financial situation that gave them a power base and today we are suffering."

The foreign minister had previously referred to the encroachment that the Foreign Ministry suffered during the past process, saying that the managing of foreign policy during the first 7 years of the process was more in the hands of the Economy Ministry than in the hands of San Martin Palace.

LA NACION ON CREDITS TO NICARAGUA, CUBA

PY302050 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 25 Mar 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Credits for Cuba and Nicaragua"]

[Text] Our country has just closed considerable commercial and financial operations with Cuba and Nicaragua, in which specifically economic conditions have a secondary character.

The transactions with Nicaragua are an extension of those initiated during the final phase of the military government, and which included the sales of arms and ammunition. During the visit of the Nicaraguan Reconstruction and Development minister to Buenos Aires, and that of the Argentine foreign relations secretary to attend the ceremonies of tribute to Sandino, an agreement was struck to increase threefold the original amount of a credit granted by our country for the purchase of Argentine goods, that is, to raise it to $45 million. It seems that the Managua government's interest is centered on vehicles, railroad material, and fishing boats, as well as technological assistance in various activities.

The negotiations with Cuba were closed when the commerce secretary went to Havana in mid-March. Several agreements were then signed, practically doubling the value of trade between the two countries. Argentina will sell Cuba food products and diverse pieces of equipment, and will undertake in Cuba a joint industrial project for the production of juices for export by processing Argentine apples.

The agreements provide for $600 million credits which can be used in equal parts over a 3-year period. There are other less important agreements on technical cooperation, maritime transport, etc. As should be recalled, similar agreements were signed in 1974 as the result of an ideological opening which began with the change of government in May 1973, and they generated an important volume of sales to Cuba, for which payments have not yet been completed. Undoubtedly, any independent nation has the right to develop trade with all countries of the world. The large Western nations have no ideological prejudice in this regard, and also our country has many times given signs of vigorous independence by adopting decisions on the basis of its strict economic convenience.

At this time, however, it can be noticed that our economic decisions are to a large extent turned into instruments at the exclusive service of political and diplomatic objectives. Argentina has several very important international problems which it must resolve and for years it has been trying to obtain support capable of improving its position in the international community at every international forum. In the course of this quest it made concessions, promised help, spared well-deserved criticisms, signed lofty declarations, and forsook principles which should never be abandoned. Argentina did all this following a zig-zag course which, in the long run brought us closer to the nonaligned group which, under this misleading name, harbors the most heterogenous lines of thought and attitude. In fact, Argentina has shown a persistent propensity for seeking the international support of this group which, if nothing else, has been consistently attacking Western coexistence and lifestyles.

The agreements now struck are part of this quest for support from governments which do not, by a long shot, share the humanitarian and democratic ideals which our own has chosen as its banner. It is true that, as the saying goes, politics is the art of negotiating and diplomacy is just international politics, but politics and diplomacy can yield desirable results when they prove, in time, that you have an ethical basis and abide by your principles.

One could argue that the implementation of these agreements will help reactivate and expand national industry. However, the truth is that producers and manufacturers are being paid through the issuance of currency -- which undoubtedly has inflationary effects -- and goods are being sold abroad on long term credit. This means that no foreign currency will come into the country and no money will be withdrawn from circulation within a resonable period of time. In other words, the entire community will have to finance through its efforts the goods promised under these agreements.

The political meaning of the accords signed with Cuba and Nicaragua is, in sum, more important than their economic terms -- to the extent that the latter are still unknown to the people at large -- and clearly show that the nation's international policy is apparently prepared to continue aimlessly wandering around the international scenario.

ECONOMY MINISTER COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

PY301323 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The Argentine Chamber of Advertisers held one of its periodic luncheons yesterday. Economy Minister Grinspun was especially invited to participate. During the luncheon, the minister answered questions put to him by the other participants. Grinspun said that the main aspects of the overall economic policy will be curbing inflation through the 1984 budget and resolving the foreign debt issue.

The minister added that, as opposed to 1973 when young people voted for violence and extremism, in 1983 they voted for law and peace. Therefore, he said, we have the responsibility to find the necessary instruments to attain economic development so that these people will not feel deceived.

Grinspun said that before 10 December 1983 the economy was out of control and that fairly good progress has been made in this regard. He noted that the government inherited an inflation rate of 435 percent annually and that the budget deficit reached 18 percent of the gross domestic product during the last 4 months of 1983. He said that a dynamic process is needed to resolve this situation because the entire policy must be greatly changed. He added that the delicate foreign debt problem also has to be taken into account.

The minister stressed that some aspects of the foreign debt are unresolved, adding that although they inherited a country without reserves, the feared general shortage of supplies did not occur.

Minister Grinspun said that they had always maintained that the first 3 months would be the most difficult ones for the government, but that they were aware now that they have been even more difficult due to the inherited situation.

In reply to another question, the economy minister categorically dismissed any changes in the exchange rate policy, adding that they will not retreat and will try to guarantee to all sectors concerned that there will not be a regression.

MINISTRY ISSUES REPORT ON ECONOMY IN 1983

PY302230 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Mar 84 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- Although the gross domestic product (GDP) rose 2.8 percent in 1983 and was thus similar to that recorded in 1974, the per capita income during the last ten years fell by 13.5 percent, according to figures released last night by the Economy Ministry. Economic growth in 1983 took place mostly during the first three quarters but dropped to a mere one percent during the last.

Imports dropped 5.4 percent over the year and 5.9 over the last three months, owing to import restrictions such as customs bans and credit problems, as well as the increased cost of foreign goods in terms of heavily devalued pesos.

The Ministry report explained that the growth of the GDP in 1983 was the result of increased economic activity in all sectors but construction and finance, especially because of the replacement of imports with domestic products. It also attributed the recovery to political and economic uncertainty during the pre-electoral period, which prompted businesses to speed up their production plans and families to make large purchases.

The largest contribution to the GDP growth in 1983 came from manufacturers which expanded by 9.9 percent, followed by agriculture, cattle raising, and forestry, with 8.8 percent. Construction industry, however, fell back by 6.8 percent owing to scarce and costly credit, as well as to the sharply reduced spending capacity of the population at large. Public works were limited to the completion of small outstanding projects, with tight budget restrictions in all cases. The tertiary sector, the report concluded, expanded by one percent, with the largest contributions from transport and energy services.

PRESIDENT SILES OFFERS MIR FOUR MINISTRIES

PY311831 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The national leadership of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] will meet in the next few hours to consider the government's offer to concede four ministries in order to achieve the return of the party to the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] front which is currently governing the country. [passage indistinct] The president has offered the following ministries to the MIR: the Education Ministry, the Energy Ministry, the Housing and Urbanization Ministry, and a ministry to be created for regional integration. The president also reportedly expressed his determination to maintain the independent ministers in the government.

INFORMATION MINISTER DENIES SANTA CRUZ UPRISING

PY301116 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Today's rumor which alarmed people and politicians apparently originated in Santa Cruz. A groundless rumor saying that a civilian-military uprising had taken place in Santa Cruz. Radio Panamericana tried to determine whether this rumor was correct. Correspondents in Santa Cruz confirmed that it was just a rumor. Later, in La Paz, the authorized government spokesman, Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena, flatly denied the rumors.

[Begin Rueda Pena recording] It is completely untrue that there is a civilian-military uprising in the city of Santa Cruz. Those rumors, which apparently have received some media exposure, are coming from groups that are interested in confusing the country and agitating the people's restlessness, restlessness normally sparked by this sort of rumor. [end recording]

Rueda Pena talked on the present situation in Santa Cruz.

[Begin Rueda Pena recording] The situation in Santa Cruz is completely normal at present. [end recording]

INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS COUNTRY 'RELATIVELY CALM'

PY021831 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has requested reports from the departmental prefects on their investigations on the existence of armed civilian groups.

[Begin recording] [Alvarez] Well, a short time ago we gave instructions to the prefects of the departments to report to us on the political situation in their areas. This type of report is sent to us daily from all parts of the Republic.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the situation in the country right now?

[Alvarez] Well, what can I say? I believe the situation is relatively calm. We have many reports on increasing activities by certain political groups and certain sectors of the military no longer in power, certain groups which would like to see the country converted again into a theater of struggle and fighting among Bolivians, but we hope that all those activities will be duly controlled by the government. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA

PY021418 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro yesterday said that Brazil will not change its policy toward South Africa in the wake of the establishment of relations between that country and Mozambique, a fact that he does not consider surprising. Minister Guerreiro said: "Our policy has never been determined by the state of relations between South Africa and Mozambique. So our policy must not change; we just have to watch."

Itamaraty sources recall that Brazilian policy toward South Africa was established even before Angola and Mozambique gained their independence, and it is basically determined by the apartheid question which has been discussed at the United Nations for years.

Guerreiro affirmed that any political line is always under observation. He explained that "careful thought" is given to the implementation of that policy. He said: "The steps are taken very cautiously depending on developments of the situation." Guerreiro, who will go on a 3-day official visit to Portugal on 4 April, admitted that he will analyze the latest developments in Southern Africa with Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama.

FIGUEIREDO'S POPULARITY REACHES RECORD LOW

PY291700 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 14 Mar 84 p 33

[Excerpts] If President Joao Figueiredo's mood has been bad lately, it must have gotten even worse last Wednesday when the Gallup Institute released a popularity survey. According to this survey, conducted between 10 and 25 February among 2,621 persons in 182 cities of 20 states, support for the Figueiredo administration, which had been showing negative indexes since 1980, went all the way down to minus 41 percent at the beginning of this year, the lowest rating since he took over in 1979 when the surveys began. Once again it has been proven that Figueiredo's popularity declines as inflation soars. In the February survey, 5 percent of those interviewed felt that the government was doing "very well," 21 percent thought it was doing "well," while 39 believed that the performance of the government was "average," 11 percent felt it was "bad," and 17 percent believed that it is doing "very badly."

The director of the Gallup Institute believes that the president will run the risk of being booed at public ceremonies if his popularity continues to decline. He recalled that "when the popularity of the then Governor Paulo Maluf reached minus 50 percent, he was frequently booed."

MARKET LOOTINGS START AGAIN IN SAO PAULO

PY311426 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Market lootings are being carried out again in the neighborhoods of Sao Paulo. Last night, approximately 50 people looted the (Quijo Mada Cabajara) market located at 15,114 Jose Maria Street [words indistinct] armed with clubs and stones. The looters, including men, women, and children, stole goods worth more than 1 million cruzeiros. Police have not been able to identify the looters.

FIGUEIREDO TO VISIT JAPAN, PRC IN LATE MAY

PY311550 Paris AFP in Spanish 0339 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Brasilia, 30 Mar (AFP) -- The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today announced that President Joao Figueiredo will officially visit the PRC and Japan at the end of May. The source added that the dates of the two visits have not been fixed yet but indicated that Figueiredo will go to Japan first and that he will visit the PRC after 26 May.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR ARGENTINA

PY021815 Paris AFP in Spanish 1648 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid this afternoon left for Buenos Aires on the third stage of his official tour of Latin America. The Mexican presidential plane Presidente Carranza took off from Rio de Janeiro at 1332 (1632 GMT).

SWEDISH KING, QUEEN ARRIVE IN BRASILIA

PY030050 Paris AFP in Spanish 2007 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Swedish King Gustaf Carl XVI and Queen Silvia, who will pay a 6 day official visit to Brazil, arrived in Brasilia today. The visitors, who were coming from Salvador, Bahia, were met at the airport by Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo. After meeting with President Figueiredo today, the royal couple will attend a banquet held in their honor by the chief of state. The Swedish monarchs will remain in Brazil from 7 to 14 April on a private visit.

MINISTER DISCUSSES ENERGY, MINERAL POLICY

PY281126 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] In Brasilia today Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals presided over the opening session of the first seminar on Brazilian policy in the mineral sector. The seminar is being sponsored by the Mines and Energy Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. In his speech, Minister Cals said that Brazilian oil production grew from 164,000 barrels daily in (?1979) to 440,000 at the beginning of 1984, and that oil reserves grew from 1.2 billion to 2.4 billion barrels over the same period. According to the minister, oil reserves must grow by 350 to 400 million barrels each year in order to reach the average production level of 1 million barrels daily in 1993.

Cals pointed out that the government of President Joao Figueiredo has implemented a major reformulation of Brazilian policy in the mineral sector, following four guidelines: the promotion of exports, priority treatment for the private sector, regionalization of mineral production, and intensive use of technology. As a result of this policy, Brazilian mineral production reached approximately $8.5 billion in 1983, the minister said.

BRIEFS

NEW ITAMARATY SECRETARY -- Carlos Calero Rodrigues, a career diplomat, will be the new Itamaraty secretary general as of 20 June. He will replace current Secretary General Baena Soares who has been elected OAS Secretary General and will assume his new post in Washington on that date. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Mar 84 p 4 PY]

THREE MINISTERS RESIGN, REPLACEMENTS NAMED

PY021729 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1620 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Government decree read in the Great Honor Hall of Moneda Palace by Interior Ministry Under Secretary Luis Simon Figueroa del Rio -- live]

[Text] I accept the resignations of and appoint the ministers for the ministries given below:

Decree No 360. Santiago, 2 April 1983.

According to Article 32, clause 9, of the Constitution of the Republic of Chile, I decree:

1. The resignations submitted by the following persons from their ministerial posts are accepted as of today: Economy Minister Andres Passicot, Finance Minister Carlos Francisco Caceres Contrerndu, and Housing and Urbanization Minister Modesto Collados Nunez.

2. The following persons are appointed ministers in the ministries mentioned below as of today: Modesto Collado Nunez in the Economy Ministry, Luis Escobar Cerda in the Finance Ministry, and Miguel Angel Poduje (Sasiain) in the Housing and Urbanization Ministry.

3. For reasons of service which cannot be postponed, the persons named above should take up their posts on the date given in this decree.

It is so ordered.

[Signed] General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, president of the Republic and Sergio Onofre Jarpa, interior minister.

PINOCHET ADDRESSES NATION AT SWEARING-IN

PY021854 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1620 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Address to the nation by President Augusto Pinochet from La Moneda Palace -- live]

[Excerpts] Messrs Cabinet Members, Messrs Officers and Generals of the Armed Forces, Mister Director of the Investigation office; Messrs Under Secretaries; Ladies and Gentlemen:

As is well known, the government recently had to confront one of the harshest economic crises in the history of our country. The handling of this crisis has been one of the most difficult tasks that the ministers of the economic team had to undertake. This is a task that demands all the energy of those involved, since they also have to confront misunderstandings and, many times, unjust criticism. In view of this, the demands are overwhelming, particularly if one takes into account that the ministers in question have to shoulder the anguish of the unemployed and the problems of our [word indistinct] and businessmen. The ministers who leave their posts today have fulfilled the duties they were entrusted with in an exemplary manner since they were able to achieve the stability of our economy and establish the proper conditions to achieve the recovery of our economy.

The normalization of our economy, which has been achieved by those ministers who leave the cabinet today, offers a new challenge for the government [words indistinct] to substantially decrease unemployment.

Those ministers sworn-in today -- Modesto Collado, Luis Escobar, and Miguel Angel Poduje -- will be entrusted with the mission of achieving government objectives as soon as possible.

[words indistinct] must take into account that the guidelines of a social market economy that [words indistinct] will continue to be fully enforced. These are: respect of private property, free exercise of free enterprise, (?reserved assistance) to the market sector [words indistinct]. These guidelines will be the basis of an economic policy which ultimately hopes to achieve the well-being of the people and which will be implemented in a realistic and pragmatic manner by taking into account the serious social problems that the prevailing recession has imposed on our country.

Those measures that will be enforced to confront these social problems will be characterized by granting priority to the solution of the unemployment problem by achieving a rapid reactivation of our economy [words indistinct] most needy sectors of the country. (?By fulfilling) these two objectives, we shall continue to avoid the enforcement of any measure that will likely lead us to an inflationary process.

Moreover, the government will strive to resolve as soon as possible the situation of those banks that are intervened by the government or that are in a state of liquidation. Our country will also continue to meet its commitments to international financial institutions.

The economy minister will direct the sector in charge of coordinating the nation's economic policy by guiding the activities of the proper ministers in keeping with the objective of increasing production and exports. For its part, the Finance Ministry will concentrate its action in the areas of government finances, budget, and the renegotiation of the foreign debt in keeping with the policy of austerity in government expenses.

Mssrs ministers, before ending this ceremony in which new members of the national Cabinet have been sowrn-in, I wish to say that I am convinced that you will be able to fulfill in an effective and decisive manner the objectives that have been established and that despite the obstacles that we must confront and despite the undermining actions carried out by some groups that do not place the well-being of the nation above their selfish interests -- and that make violence their way of life -- the supreme government will continue to [word indistinct] public order, the rights of all citizens, and at the same time, (?solve) the unemployment problem.

No matter what, the Chilean Government, its people, and the Armed and police forces will fulfill the established objectives and the ultimate goal of achieving a new institutional system.

Thank you very much. [applause]

NEW FINANCE MINISTER ON PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

PY030257 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 2 Apr 84

[By Manola Robles]

[Excerpt] Luis Escobar Cerda, the new finance minister, has told reporters that his priority objective will be to create jobs, and that this task will not be accomplished with mere statements. Economy Minister Modesto Collado and myself, Minister Cerda said, will make every effort in this regard and noone should have any doubt that our main objective will be to promote economic recovery and to create jobs.

Minister Escobar Cerda was told that businessmen had voiced satisfaction over the cabinet reshuffle. He was specifically asked whether the economic policy will change. He replied: I believe that there will be a shift in emphasis and that priority objectives will change. Otherwise, the replacement of ministers would not be justified.

He also said that it is perfectly possible to adopt a more aggressive policy of recovery in line with current inflation rates, that is, it is possible to reactivate the economy at a faster rate without allowing inflation to soar.

Concerning the renegotiation of the foreign debt, Escobar Cerda said that in general terms he agreed with outgoing Minister Caceres. He also said that each country is a specific and particular case. However, he noted, I disagree with former Minister Caceres on one issue; namely, that the fact that each country faces a specific debt problem is not compatible with a policy of contacts with other Latin American countries that confront the same problem. I believe that contacts may allow debtor countries to arrange less painful renegotiation terms.

Concerning the availability of resources, Escobar Cerda said that needs always outweigh resources. However, he pointed out, the point is how resources are used, whether for creating new jobs or for importing whiskey. I believe that the decision is clear, he concluded, our priority objective will be the creation of jobs.

CARABINEROS DIRECTOR: POLICE ARE TARGETS

PY021140 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0421 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 31 Mar (EFE) -- Carabineros Director General Cesar Mendoza today stated that uniformed policemen are the victims of a campaign organized by extremist elements. During the household goods fair held in Santiago, Gen Mendoza told journalists that "among the documents seized during various operations, we have found plans for attacks at specific times of the year. We are the object of one of those plans right now."

Last night, a bomb exploded near a police bus in downtown Santiago which caused the death of a Carabinero and the injury of 11 others.

The Carabineros director added that "terrorism must not only be condemned but eliminated. In Chile it is only repudiated through words, and perhaps at heart, but it has not been eliminated." The top military official and junta member said that "all these attacks are being paid for, planned, and directed from abroad." Gen Mendoza regretted that "terrorists have the support and protection of many front organizations which hinder police action."

DETAILS OF WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES, BLACKOUTS

PY021423 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] A blackout which affected the area between the 4th and 9th regions occurred last night at 2105.

According to a report released by the National Emergency Office, the overall situation is the following: A total blackout occurred in the metropolitan area and later power was restored in some districts.

A total blackout occurred in the 4th region in Coquimbo, and there was partial power restoration.

A total blackout occurred in the 5th region, in the Valparaiso-Quillota-Vina del Mar area, and there was a partial power restoration. A partial blackout occurred in the 6th region, in Rancagua and Rengo, and the area remains without power. Another blackout also affected Talca and (San Vicente) in the 7th region, but power was later restored. The 8th and 9th regions were also affected by partial blackouts.

The National Emergency Office has also reported that there was a (?power service) outage in the following sectors: Charrua-Colbun and Charrua-Concepcion.

This report was immediately submitted to Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa.

We are contacting our correspondent in concepcion. [passage indistinct]

And now we are contacting our correspondent in Curico.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] A total blackout occurred in Curico at approximately 2105, but power was later restored. Approximately 10 minutes after power was restored, two blasts were heard, blasts which felled a high-voltage power pylon in the town of [name indistinct], located some 30 km from Curico toward the [Pacific] coast on road to Rauco, before the town of La Isla. This tower carried a load of 154,000 kilovolts [as heard] and it fell after the second blast occurred. This tower belongs to [words indistinct] and it caused a total blackout here in Curico. CONASE [expansion unknown] started to work immediately and at approximately 2230 restored the Rauco-Constitucion line and power was restored in Curico. This is a report by Radio (Confer) of Curico for Radio Nacional de Chile. Thank you. [end recording]

CNI DETAINS 3 'EXTREME LEFTISTS'; ANOTHER SOUGHT

PY030246 Paris AFP in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 2 Apr (AFP) -- The security services of the Chilean military government today confirmed that they have detained three alleged members of the extreme left. They have been accused of participating in attacks against several policemen. The secret National Intelligence Center [CNI] has reported that its agents have detained Isabel Martinez Sanchez, Luis Arturo Martinez Sanchez, and Pedro Abarca Castro. They were in possession of automatic weapons, bombs, and subversive documents belonging to the Popular Resistance Militias.

The CNI has also reported that a fourth member of the group remains at large and that this group carried out the attack against a garrison and a vehicle belonging to the Carabineros militarized police, which took place last Thursday. They also took part in a shootout on 13 October 1983 in which an agent died. The first reports about the arrest of the three leftists were made known on Sunday night, after the CNI carried out raids and operations in Santiago.

Further on Hideout Discovery

PY021715 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] A terrorist hideout, where arms as well as a number of items used in recent attacks were hidden, has been discovered in the Nunoa district.

During the action carried out by the security services, Pedro Abarca, owner of the property located on 4171 Arturo Medina Street, was detained. Abarca was directly involved in an attack against a Carabineros van at the Teniente Merino [word indistinct] 29 March. During that terrorist attack, a subversive was killed and three policemen were wounded.

During the (?Nunoa) raid, several bomb (?wicks) were found along with detonators, explosives, clips for firing systems, battery units, and small power ampules. In the property's backyard, a bag containing [words indistinct], a ski mask, and an emblem of the outlawed MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] was found in a pit.

According to information supplied by high-ranking police officers, Abarca arrived in Chile 4 months ago. He came from France and had a love affair with the daughter of the owner [as heard] of the above-mentioned house. Two other dwellers of the house knew about the explosives that Abarca was hiding and they were detained under the charge of being Abarca's accomplices.

PERUVIAN SINGER REPORTEDLY 'SHOT DEAD' BY POLICE

PY020255 Paris AFP in Spanish 1833 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 31 Mar (AFP) -- According to a radio report, the civilian who was shot by police in Santiago today was Peruvian singer Percy Arana. Arana was killed after the bomb attack in which a policeman died. The 20 year old melodic singer was passing in his car near the Carabineros Special Forces (militarized police) headquarters and he did not obey an order to stop. Radio Portales said that Carabineros personnel fired upon the car and Arana was mortally wounded.

At the time of the incident, police patrols were carrying out intensive operations in the Chilean capital to search for the unidentified individuals who planted a bomb close to a police bus, the explosion of which caused the death of a Carabinero and the injury of 11 others.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO STRIKE ON 12 APRIL

PY030313 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Democratic university student leaders have agreed to call a national university student strike on 12 April. The decision was made at a meeting held last weekend, when students discussed the situation prevailing at Chilean universities and the events that occurred during the last protest action, when engineering student Caupolican Inostroza, of the University of Concepcion, was killed. During a press conference, student leaders referred to the 24-hour student strike.

[Begin unidentified student leader recording] A 24-hour national university student strike will be staged on 12 April. Demonstrations will begin at 0800 and all university activities will stop between 1100 and 1300. The main acts will take place at (?1900) in each city with the slogan: "For life and freedom, democracy for Chile at universities." [end recording]

SEGUEL DENIES WORKERS' POLITICAL INTERVENTION

PY030335 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Labor leader Rodolfo Seguel made it clear today that the national reconciliation project formulated by the National Workers Command does not imply that workers are engaged in political activities.

[Begin Seguel recording] It is important to make it quite clear that we are not engaged in political activities. We are just putting forward a proposal to Archbishop Fresno for a peaceful solution to the crisis in the country. Some politicians have charged that we are engaging in politics. But we categorically deny this charge. We are not making politics. We want solutions for the problems that the country is confronting. We believe that it is necessary to reach national understanding and consensus. [end recording]

SOCIALIST SEEKS TRIAL OF MILITARY OFFICIALS

PY021446 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2325 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Barcelona (Spain), 30 Mar (EFE) -- Clodomiro Almeyda, secretary general of the Chilean Socialist Party, demanded here today that those responsible for the Chilean military government be brought to trial. Almeyda said: "This is a national demand which is included in all programs of the member parties of the Popular Democratic Movement in Chile."

Almeyda, who was secretary general of the Chilean Popular Unity, is in Barcelona to attend solidarity rallies with Chile. Almeyda believes that "the Chilean reality is closer to the Argentine process" than to the one experienced in Spain during the transition period.

Almeyda stated that the Chilean opposition is united and that popular mobilizations may bring about a general strike. "The workers and the people of Chile can make the country ungovernable. If the military want to retain power they will have to machine-gun the people even more brutally than the Greek military dictatorship did and which forced its downfall," Almeyda said.

Almeyda regarded as positive the action taken by the Chilean Catholic Church in defense of human rights during the dictatorship. He noted, however, that "there are undoubtedly conservative sectors within the Catholic Church, just like in any other organization. Yet the Chilean church has clearly considered the popular protests as legitimate because it has understood that the people are not allowed to exercise their rights."

Almeyda was a close aide of late Chilean President Salvador Allende. He was defense and foreign affairs minister and vice president during the Popular Unity government.

MDP LEADER ALMEYDA SENTENCED TO PRISON TERM

PY030236 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2119 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 2 Apr (EFE) -- According to a resolution of the Santiago Appellate Court, Manuel Almeyda Medina, president of the Democratic and Popular Movement (MDP), was sentenced today to 3 and 1/2 years in prison. Almeyda's defense lawyer has indicated that he will appeal the sentence within the next few days and that he will immediately request the release under bond of the opposition leader, who opposes General Augusto Pinochet's regime.

The sentence is the result of a trial that the Appellate Court held at the request of the government, which accused the MDP leader of various violations of the law regarding the internal security of the state. The Appellate Court's decision stipulates two sentences for the president of the MDP, a sentence of 2 years in prison and the second sentence calls for 541 days in prison. Almeyda has been in prison since 15 February 1984.

PRESIDENT BETANCUR DISCUSSES NATIONAL ECONOMY

PA021538 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Speech to the nation by Colombian President Belisario Betancur in Bogota -- live]

[Excerpts] Let us begin with the economic situation and the difficulties of the external sector, in other words, our international economic relations. Since 1980 we have had to face various negative factors, especially in the foreign sector. The prices of our exports have dropped noticeably. The pound of coffee which sold for more than $3 in the past was worth only $1.30 last year. The prices of other products such as cotton and sugar have also decreased. We can graphically see the consequences of this drop in prices. We can see how the purchasing power of our exports has been reduced, in other words, what we can purchase with the dollars that we obtain. Today we can purchase less than half of what we could buy abroad 6 years ago with the same amount of dollars, because the prices have gone up, and we have fewer dollars because less is purchased from us. But it is not only a matter of prices. It is also a matter of quantity. There has been a decrease in the quantity of Colombian products sold to the world because, in order to defend their industries, the industrialized countries have reduced their purchases of products from Colombia and other nations. Even our dear neighbors Venezuela and Ecuador had closed their markets to us, but they have gradually begun to reopen them. As a result, Colombian exports dropped from $4.1 billion in 1980 to just $2.9 billion last year. Can you imagine that -- a drop of $1.2 billion, a little over 41 percent, about 114 billion pesos?

The international financial crisis has also affected us. The size of the Latin American countries' foreign debt and their payment difficulties have made international banks more cautious. Even though we were not in the same situation, they did not want to lend more money to any Latin American country. Thank goodness we were not included in the general veto and they are lending to us. But nothing is easy.

At the same time that our purchasing power decreased, and beguiled by the great amounts of dollars of doubtful origin that entered through the back door, we began to import more, to buy, legally and illegally, more products abroad, many of them unnecessary. In 1981 we reached the extreme and the deficit grew. Our dollar reserves had to be used to cover this deficit, and naturally they dropped very rapidly. There were immediate consequences. The Colombian companies that were selling less had to produce less and employ fewer poeple. Since the number of employed decreased, there was a further drop in the Colombian's incomes, and therefore they purchased less, thus further harming industry. This vicious circle could only be overcome with the intervention of the government [passage indistinct]. The government's revenue decreased. The import and export taxes were also reduced. Since the expenses were increasing at the same time, the government was in the red. This is what is called the fiscal deficit which has grown rapidly since 1979.

In the face of these difficulties, the government's strategy was very clear. The initial objectives established in our development plan, "Change with Equity," are the reactivation and the stabilization of the economy. We sought and we are achieving a slower increase in prices, advancing toward equilibrium in our international trade and public finances -- all of this without sacrificing the growth of the economy, which is already recovering. We are controlling inflation, that tax on the poor.

Prices are going up, but they are now doing so much slower than 2 years ago and at almost half the rate of 1981.

What are the prospects for this year? They are favorable, because our inflation will be kept under control while the developed countries -- the United States and the European countries, which are our main buyers -- are going to register about a 5-percent inflation. We have also made efforts to encourage exports, increasing the incentives of the Tax Return Certificate. It was previously called the CAT [Tax Allowance Certificate] and it is now called the CERT. It is more flexible and will have broader coverage. It will cover more products.

As can be seen, we do not need to speak of a sudden devaluation [words indistinct] nor of extreme measures to increase our exports. But incentives are a main objective of the government. In addition, we can continue to count on the support of PROEXPO [Export Promotion Fund], the government institution involved with foreign trade, and, above all, with the enterprising spirit and drive of our producers, whom we will continue to encourage and support. There should also be no doubt that we will continue to control and restrict imports of unessential items such as luxury automobiles and other articles. [Word indistinct] the need to save dollars. Imports have dropped and that is the reason the difference between them and exports is now just 300 million [no currency specified].

I would like to once again refer to the reform of the sales tax. This reform entered into force today under the name of VAT, which means Value Added Tax. In other words, this is what is added to a raw material that we transofrm into another, better product. By establishing more controls, so that those who must pay will do so and so as to expand coverage -- in other words, to prevent those who are most obliged to pay from evading payment -- we hope that there will be an increase in the resources that are needed not by the government but by you so that this government can give you what you justly ask for every day: better water, electricity, and telephone services, health services, education, housing, and roads.

Above all, we must comply with the law. This is not optional. This is not up to individual whims. The law is [words indistinct]. In Latin America this means for all, for the poor and for the powerful. The country must be aware that my hand will not refrain from enforcing the law and to punish those who try to violate it or who foment noncompliance of the law. We have seen statements that are frankly on the borderline of legality. No matter the social, economic, or political level of the transgressor, we will apply the law.

The VAT is not a capricious invention of the Colombian Government or Congress. It has been working for many years in many European countries, the United States, and several Latin American countries. It is a measure of tax justice. It is an essential step in the process of budget modernization that Colombia needs.

We have also advanced in the struggle against contraband. There is still contraband in the following sectors: textiles, tobacco, cigarettes, and automobile spare parts. However, important advances have been achieved. I hereby order the Armed Forces, the police, and the customs agencies to be ruthless in fighting contraband because it demoralizes us and takes jobs away from our workers.

On Thursday, the board of directors of the World Bank in Washington approved a $170-million loan for the energy sector, and an additional $200-million loan from private banks is in a satisfactorily advanced stage of negotiation. This is very good news for the energy sector and for the future of our international reserves.

Fellow citizens: To successfully conclude what we are doing and planning, we need peace, coexistence, and the security of citizens which leads to security of the state. The truth is that slowly lights of hope are appearing. The president and the government maintain their course. There can be no doubts about our decisions and our good faith. That is why the president met in Spain with the leaders of the M-19 [19 April Movement] last year. That is why months ago the Peace Commission traveled to Huila with the authorization of the president. That is why the members of the Peace Commission now traveled to the eastern plains and brought back a document that we view with satisfaction, hoping that there will be reactions in the direction of peace from other groups that for any reason are outside the law.

After examining the agreements that the members of the Peace Commission reached with the command of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], the government considers that they truly contribute to peace in large Colombian regions. They create objective factors that return to our compatriots confidence in work. If they are fulfilled with loyalty, sincerity, and patriotism, they will bring about a broad and creative national reconciliation. That is why the government has approved them. Since this is such beautiful and greatly anticipated news, I thus announce it to the nation.

ARMY, FARC REBELS CLASH AFTER TRUCE ANNOUNCED

PA021944 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1658 GMT 2 Apr 84

[By Jose Antonio Mantilla]

[Excerpt] Bogota, 2 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Six guerrillas of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were killed in a clash with the Army today, hours after President Belisario Betancur announced that a cease-fire had been signed with the extremist organization.

An Army Command spokesmen said that the clash occurred in Samana, 250 km northwest of Bogota, when some 50 insurgents tried to raid the township.

Six rebels were killed in the clash, but there were no casualties on the Army side, the source added.

U.S. AMBASSADOR SCORED FOR 'BRAZEN VIOLATION'

PY310140 Asuncion Red Privada de Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Editorial commentary by Hassel Aguilar Sosa]

[Text] [In progress] ...whether they are bilateral or multilateral, which frequently hinder relations between states. Therefore, we say that traditional diplomacy does not exist anymore. It has been replaced by another type of diplomacy, one of strong words, bad manners, and a lack of moderation, or simply just direct extortion -- in the hands of a new crop of diplomats -- through pressure and threats of a war-like economic nature, which in this case are the same thing.

And for those who believe that we are laying it on thick regarding this point, that we are greatly exaggerating, it is true that there are enough examples anywhere and everywhere, within international organizations and in the daily relations between embassies and governments. They are also evident in the situation of other branches of the governments of other countries that are considered democratic regarding matters that pertain exclusively to the executive branch. It is well known that certain legislative branches, separately from the diplomatic relations that their governments maintain through their executive branches -- which of course is how it should be -- make open and offensive incursions into the internal affairs of other states. And if this is not enough, let us point out the disloyal attitude of the economic powers that control the international financial organizations when their respective governments do not agree with the policies or determinations of other governments. These powers simply resort to the veto to block technical assistance or loans for development programs that have nothing to do with political circumstances or matters.

The general considerations made above are timely when we recall that here in Paraguay we have just had the much-publicized case of the closing of the newspaper ABC COLOR and the arrest of its publisher. These measures, which were adopted by the Paraguayan Government, and with which one can agree or not, are a question of exclusive interest to Paraguayans. In other words, this is a question related to the internal affairs of Paraguay, period.

However, here we have a case in point of what we have said before. The embassy of the United States in our country, that is to say, the ambassador of the United States in Paraguay, since the ambassador is always and inevitably directly responsible for any declaration made by any diplomatic mission, has allowed himself to issue a declaration which has rarely, if ever, been part of the diplomatic relations between sovereign states. Had this declaration been made by the diplomatic mission of a small country, such as our country, for instance, the responsible ambassador would have been at once declared persona non grata and sent out of the country just as quickly as if the declaration affected a country with military and economic powers such as those of the United States.

We insist that this is not a question of analyzing whether the measures against an organ of the press are justified or not. What matters here is keeping in mind that, beyond the judgment that can be passed on the action of the government by the citizenry, a foreign embassy, namely that of the world's most powerful country, has violated one of the fundamental principles of international law, the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of another state. This, it should be noted, is expressly forbidden by international accords and provisions of American public law.

This set a grievous precedent, both for those who agree with the measures adopted against ABC COLOR and for those who do not. For circumstantial reasons of an economic nature, one can never, must not ever, accept such a brazen violation of a cardinal principle in relations among states, as was done by the embassy of the United States, trespassing the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of another state.

Without euphemism or rhetoric, this is the opinion of Canal 13.

PRESIDENT STROESSNER ADDRESSES CONGRESS

PY011414 Asuncion Red Privada de Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1218 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Speech by Alfredo Stroessner to Congress on the opening of the 1984 congressional session in Asuncion -- live]

[Excerpts] The vote of the majority has granted us the power that we now have. The people govern only through its representatives; this is established in Article 39 of the Constitution. Therefore, that is why we are legitimately speaking in the name of the people, not like those politicians who feel resentment, politicians who represent no one and who, instead of helping in smoothing the path to the ballot boxes, follow the path of subversion and international mendacity, behaving like unworthy sons of this land that has never compromised with the traitors of the cause of its freedom and sovereignty. [applause]

Experience has shown us that the 1947 revolution put an end to a stage that must not be repeated. We mention this fact for the people who are not old enough to recall those regrettable events, which, for the good of the country, must never occur again. And, they will never happen again, because that is the desire and banner of all Paraguayans. [applause]

We now have the guarantee of the institutions, which are standing on firm bases, on me myself, and on a product of peace. I have a free conscience, because I am president because of the will of the majority that has spontaneously demonstrated their support for me through 90 percent of the vote. I have never moved a finger to obtain power or to maintain power in my hands. I have no reason for being ashamed, because if I have been at the head of the government for a long time it is not due to personal ambition, but due to the confidence of the population and because God is with me, and I am in very good health. [applause] The people of Paraguay are a proud people and if they have called on me to exercise such high public responsibility, it is because they value peace and progress and desire to continue with these realities.

We govern in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Republic. We are in permanent contact with social concerns. We do not live behind the closed doors of Government House; we tour the country to listen to the workers, farmers, businessmen, students, mothers, and the poorer people. We receive from their voice the stimulus that commits us to redoubling our efforts in the task of continuing national prosperity. [applause]

Only certain individuals, who are blinded by the passions of a retrograde nature, can deny the huge magnitude of Paraguayan development, which can be seen by the standard of living of the people, in the pace of production, and in numerous spiritual and material undertakings that have emerged from a dynamic order that has overcome the laziness and backwardness of other times, when only anarchism among the Paraguayan people advanced.

We have always believed that a weak government cannot defend democracy. We have been and will always stand firm against the dark plans of those who promote violence, who seek to disrupt the peaceful environment which serves as the basis for the happiness of the people.

The human rights of the people impose on us the task not to give in to international bandits and extremists, and to be alert, to act quickly against any open or concealed provocation of communism, the enemy of all norms of coexistence, of all expressions of freedom, and of the moral and legal basis of our democratic society. We are legally flying the human rights flag because we have defeated once and for all those who promoted fratricidal war among Paraguayans, those who kept the people in continuous spiritual anxiety, those who offended human dignity by looking to the past and by making false promises, those who are responsible for the sorrow of so many mothers who sadly gathered the bodies of their sons who died in the bloody war among our brethren. The human rights banner is legitimately in our hands because we know how to establish order without detriment to freedom, because we have established a state of law with a government and a people who submit to the law, because in achieving victory for the cause of peace we succeed in obtaining justice, freedom, democracy, and human dignity. [applause]

Our democratic essence and traditions are our pride. The institutional order of the Republic has been built on the pillars of the people's sovereignty. The legislative, executive, and judicial branches act harmoniously in keeping with the provisions of the national Constitution issued in the light of the constituent power's doctrine. We Colorado Party members do not impose constitutions through decrees. We do not invoke democracy, but only honor it with our behavior; we serve it with work and strengthen it with patriotism. [applause] The national Constitution approved and promulgated on 25 August 1967 stems from a free national constituent assembly in which the four legally constituted parties participated, thus giving legal recognition to an age-old desire of the people.

The press grants an important service to democracy when it carries out the right to inform in a responsible manner and when it disseminates ideas for the common good. The national government has decided to suspend indefinitely the publication of a morning newspaper which with its subversive preaching openly violated Article 71 of the national Constitution which establishes that preaching of hatred among Paraguayans, preaching the class struggle, and preaching the promotion of crime or violence will not be allowed. The criticism of law is allowed, but no one can proclaim disobedience to what these laws establish. The people are witnesses to the fact that this newspaper has been engaged in a campaign to destabilize the government and to increasingly provoke our democratic institutions and the peace of the country. This newspaper, spokesman of a criminal sectarian group, has been continuously seeking to tarnish the image of state power and has been continuously offending high-ranking authorities of the constitutional government, thus revealing its intention to increasingly continue to violate the principles of order and coexistence.

The government respects freedom of the press, as it has demonstrated throughout its history, but its permanent task is to maintain peace and harmony, to act against those who mistake freedom of the press with a subversive press, or freedom of expression with libertarianism which violates human rights. [applause]

Opposition political parties which operate within the law have all guarantees to publish their journals, and the government is not responsible for the fact that they do not publish them, because the government ensures freedom to all expressions of thought which do not violate the laws.

With the solidarity of the people, we will continue raising higher and higher the national flag, the historical symbol against which deserters of nationalism vainly conspire. These deserters are preachers of a democratic theory who speak of freedom but are slaves of communism. They speak of reconciliation and seek violence. They claim to be patriotic but tour the world subsidized by their foreign bosses, disseminating insults against national prestige. We will maintain the established law to prevent the antisocial, violent, and subversive persons, corruptors of our policy, from unleashing their crimes and brutality against society.

We will not drop our guard in defense of order and public peace. This is the banner that is supported by a majority of the people. There will be no weakness when facing any disturbance of our legitimate institutional life, which is the essence and honor of all good Paraguayans. We will not change the atmosphere of freedom for a smothering totalitarianism. [applause]

We emphatically defend our state of law, which guarantees the activities of every citizen and the political parties that act in accordance with the Constitution and the laws.

We firmly respect the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other nations and the self-determination of people. Therefore, the national government has declared that it will not allow foreign political parties or groups to use national territory to carry out events or meetings of a political nature, whether they be national or international meetings, to meet for unknown ends or to meet behind the backs of their own peoples with the sponsorship of irregular groups that usurp the names and symbols of political parties that do have a legal status. [applause]

Honorable members of Congress: Paraguay has the honor of maintaining in the forums of Latin America and the world a policy that respects the canons of international law. We give stimulus to foreign relations with our clear and loyal idea of coexistence and faith in the spirit of cooperation as a moral and historical imperative of friendly countries. Faithful to our profound democratic convictions, we identify ourselves with the ideals of the free world. We are fervent defenders of the traditions of Western and Christian civilization. We expound our firm and intransigent anticommunist position in all international forums and under any circumstances. We do not weaken, we do not adopt lukewarm positions,and we also do not adopt ambiguous stances when facing the challenge of international terrorism. We categorically state that we favor freedom and peace, thus, we truly interpret the sentiments and the firm attitude of the noble and heroic Paraguayan people. [applause]

During the construction of the Itaipu Dam in 1983, several objectives were achieved and we can mention the following: the construction of the turbine rooms and supporting structures continued; the manufacture and supply of turbine parts and the regular operations in every sector of the central area also continued. The successful tests of the first Itaipu turbine were carried out on 17 December 1983. This is the first of 18 that will be installed in the central area. Regarding the civil work, the detour channel was completed and the mounting of another seven generating units continued. The electric interconnection of the first two 50-cycle units has also been completed. [applause]

Relations and cooperation with the sister country of Brazil continue at an optimum pace. The symbol of Itaipu can be added to several other joint undertakings and projects that are already being implemented. The free zone in the port of Paranagua will soon have more silos that service our export of grains and they will have enough operational capacity to give stimulus to the ever increasing expansion of our agricultural production.

The project of improving our railway system, especially the connection with the Brazilian railway network, will give us another alternative for getting our exports to the Atlantic ports. This project for connecting with the Brazilian network is still in force and it has been assigned high priority by the national government. We will continue to work to achieve the construction of the soybean railway, which is so important for expanding Paraguayan development.

Regarding the reactivation of the Yacyreta negotiations, we can cite the signing of the diplomatic documents, a ceremony that took place in Asuncion on 15 September 1983. And we can cite the ceremony dedicating civil works in Rincon Santa Maria on 3 September 1983.

[Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish on 1 April, pages 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, publishes the text of President Stroessner's speech to Congress on 1 April. It reads 3 December 1983.] High-ranking officials of the two countries met on those occasions, and it was demonstrated that there is a desire to continue with the important work.

Honorable member of Congress: Our numerous achievements are the result of the reality of our peace, work, and freedom. The spirit and the fiber of Paraguayans, the government, the Colorado Party, and our glorious Armed Forces guarantee these happy present times, which are a magnificent offering of authenticity and creative capability to the alter of the fatherland. From the land of the communes a vigorous message is sent to the world by a people who for decades have lived with the greatness of the peace and democracy that was forged with a genuine national sentiment, without incompatible foreign interference and with the pride of the sovereignty of the fatherland, of Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia, of Carlos Antonio Lopez, of Marshal Francisco Solano Lopez, and of General Bernardino Caballero. [applause]

Within the normalcy of our representative democracy, the constitutional government will continue with its task based on the high virtues of the Paraguayan race.

Irregular groups that violate the law are now feeling their lack of support among the population with bowed heads and in no way will they weaken the country's march to the future. [applause]

From this high forum of Paraguayan democracy, I urge all my fellow countrymen to continue to work with optimism with the certainty that the unhappy hour of backwardness and anarchy will not return, because the great Colorado Party is in power and it will continue in power. [applause]

FERREIRA ALDUNATE EXPECTED TO RETURN IN APRIL

PY281301 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Dy Luis Alberto Lacalle has announced that Wilson Ferreira Aldunate will probably return to Uruguay in April. Lacalle, leader of the National Council of Ferreira Aldunate's faction, termed the presence of the National Party leader as necessary. He said that after tourism week, some guidelines must be established to explain the electoral process scheduled for 25 November.

Speaking about the current political situation, Lacalle stated:

[Begin recording] I believe the current political situation is facing a moment of definition, a moment of clarification, to explain the circumstances in which the elections will be held, and the circumstances in which power will be established and exercised as of 1 March. Moreover, the position of the Armed Forces seems to be shared at least tacitly by the Colorado Party. The National Party is facing internal problems, given the fact that its members cannot elect their candidate freely. That is, all these matters must be discussed at the party's convention to decide the party's future actions. [end recording]

PARAGUAY'S DETENTION OF PUBLISHER CRITICIZED

PY302008 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial: "For Freedom of the Press"]

[Text] The many years of the current Paraguayan regime, which covers a large tract of the sister republic's history and which has the intention of projecting itself into an extended future, do not seem to have been sufficient when it comes to the question of giving guarantees, and the imprisonment of the publisher of the newspaper ABC COLOR, Aldo Zuccolillo, confirms this point in an alarming and distressing way.

Throughout all of America, and this is appropriate, there have been voices of protest against this arbitrary measure and they are a drastic reply to the significant words with which the Paraguayan interior minister commented on the measure: "It published a disrespectful article about the government." When the exercise of freedom of the press is linked to such an arbitrary, subjective, and vertical concept such as the "disrespect" of a journalist and when the publisher of a newspaper loses his freedom, as Aldo Zuccolillo did, then the lack of the freedom of opinion is confirmed without question. And if it is recalled that this incident is the peak of a series of harassing measures that the authorities have carried out against ABC COLOR, then the panorama is complete.

Therefore, the charge that has been made by the Inter-American Press Society through its president and the president of its Press Freedom Commission can be fully supported. This charge has been well received by all democratic Americans.

EL DIA, faithful to its constant and undeniable call for freedom of expression, adds its support to that charge and directs its total solidarity to the journalist who is in jail, another victim of caretakers that will not acknowledge that it is time they should step down.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR VISITS, RECEIVES AWARD

Holds News Conference

PA030240 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 2 Apr 84

[News conference held by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the Marriot Hotel in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] Newsman David Carrasco] ... Perez de Cuellar, your visit to Panama coincides with a Contadora Group technical meeting to analyze the serious situation existing in the Central American area. What is your opinion of the Central American situation, of the fact that Nicaraguan ports are being mined by foreign forces that are attacking that Central American territory? What can you tell the Panamanians about that problem?

[Perez de Cuellar] Unfortunately there are elements that constantly contribute to [as heard] the efforts of the Contadora Group to find a peaceful, negotiated solution to the problem. As secretary general of the United Nations, and like all others who are legitimately interested in finding a solution to the problem, I regret anything that obstructs the Contadora Group's efforts. The action that the Contadora Group is going to take beginning today will be very important, because it will permit identification of the economic factors that are at the root of the Latin American problem.

[Victor de la Hoz of Radio Mundial] My question is: What is your opinion of the fact that at the same time that the Contadora Group is calling for a peaceful solution in the Central American region, countries which are members of the Contadora Group are participating in the military maneuvers that began in Honduras this weekend?

[Perez de Cuellar] I think that we have to make a distinction between the Contadora Group, which consists of four countries that are not involved in the Central American conflict, and the Central American countries that are the object of the Contadora Group efforts. You have referred to joint maneuvers between the United States and Nicaragua, which is a problem [corrects himself] that is, the United States and Honduras, which is a bilateral matter between those two countries. I think that we have to be careful not to confuse this with the Contadora Group efforts, which are completely neutral and are designed to make that type of joint maneuver unnecessary. I think that we agree on that. Forgive me for saying that the question was somewhat inaccurate in this regard, because Honduras is not a member of the Contadora Group; it is a target of the Contadora Group efforts.

[Maria Victoria Gonzalez of Televisora Nacional] Dr Perez de Cuellar, last night you said that the UN support for the Contadora Group was moral rather than active. However, what is the UN doing through the Security Council to contribute to the solution of the Central American crisis?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, if I said that it was moral rather than active support, I probably did not express myself properly, because what I meant was that at this time, in the present circumstances, not only the United Nations, but the international community, to put it in those terms, have turned over to the Contadora Group countries the responsibility for resolving the Central American problem.

The United Nations, as I said at the beginning of this news conference, has already approved two resolutions, one by the General Assembly and another by the Security Council expressing support for the four Contadora Group governments; and the secretary general, because he has the mandate of the Security Council, and also because of his own conviction, is coordinating very closely and constantly with the Contadora Group to extend whatever support the Contadora Group requests from him.

In other words, our support is moral to the extent that the support of the international community is being extended to the Contadora Group. From that point of view it is moral. It will not be more active until the Contadora Group requests it to be so. I believe that the Contadora Group is capable of resolving the problem without the interference of countries outside our Latin American area and also without the interference of international organizations. I repeat that the Contadora Group is capable of resolving the problem within the strict regional confines in which it should be resolved.

[James Aparicio of DIALOGO SOCIAL] We would like to know Dr Perez de Cuellar's opinion and position regarding two matters: One involves the military maneuvers called Grenadier I that are under way in Honduras, promoted by the United States, that are increasing tension in the Central American area; the other matter is the U.S. financing of counterrevolutionary actions in Nicaragua.

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, you are actually asking the question and giving the answer at the same time. Nevertheless, where the Honduran-U.S. maneuvers are concerned, as I said before, from the viewpoint of the United Nations -- which, as I just told your colleague, is an organization of governments -- the only thing that I can say now is that it is a bilateral agreement between two sovereign states, and the United Nations cannot prejudge the intention behind those military actions. Whether or not those military maneuvers contribute to tension in Latin America is a matter of opinion among observers. As to the counterrevolutionary actions, if they are being promoted from abroad, they fall into the category of interference in the internal affairs of other countries and from that viewpoint, according to the UN principles, those actions are to be condemned.

[Maria Julia Puyol of Telemetro Television] Dr Perez de Cuellar, former Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado III has said that dialogue in Central America has been brought to an end by the intervention of foreign military personnel in the area. Do you believe that in the case of a generalized conflict the United Nations would send its army?

[Perez de Cuellar] For the UN mechanism for the maintenance of peace to be activated, there must be -- and once again we return to the same thing -- an approving vote of the five permanent members of the Security Council which are, as you know, the PRC, France, the United States, the USSR, and Great Britain. Therefore, if those five countries were to agree...[rewords sentence] in the hypothetical case that you have mentioned and that we hope will never materialize, those five countries would have to vote affirmatively.

[Demetrio Olaciregui of MATUTINO] Mr Perez de Cuellar, you have momentarily dispelled the concern of some Panamanian newsmen that the matter of a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis might slip out of the Contadora Group's hands and result in a hemispheric confrontation within the OAS or the United Nations. We believe that for the time being you are giving Contadora the necessary authority to continue its efforts.

The United States has persistently been accused of originating and escalating the crisis in entral America. However, what, in your opinion, is the role being played by Cuba and Nicaragua in exporting revolutions by their arms trafficking in the region and by their responsibility not for originating, but for expanding the present Central American crisis?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, yours is another of those questions that already include the answer. I am in no position to state that Cuba or Nicaragua are involved in agitation in the Central American area. We have to act on the basis of evidence, not on the basis of conjecture inspired by ideological affinity. Moreover, it would not be up to the secretary general, but to the Contadora Group -- and I am not trying to pass the buck -- to make this assessment. The newsmen is practically asking me to assign relative guilt or responsibility for the Central American problems. I believe that to explain the Central American problem, one has to go more deeply into the matter and consider the socioeconomic injustices suffered by all our countries -- and here I am speaking not as the UN secretary general, but as a Latin American-- all the Latin American countries, despite over 100 years of independence. Therefore, that is where we should seek the basic, final, radical cause of the Central American problems that, if not immediately resolved, could even expand to other parts of our continent. I think that we are all dutybound to prevent this. That is one of the great responsibilities of the Contadora Group, one that I am sure the Group is capable of shouldering.

Illueca Makes Statement

PA030444 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0150 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Statement by Panamanian President Jorge Illueca on the occasion of the conferral of the Cross of Vesco Nunex de Balboa upon United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, at the Marriot Hotel in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] The complex problems posed by the destitution of large masses of human beings lead us to reject any suggestion that international relations should be dealt with within a bipolar system, since our contemporary world cannot be improved by being divided geometrically into solid power blocs whose rivalry precludes any hope for the survival of mankind. This position becomes more valid in view of the regional conflicts which disturb Latin American peace, particularly in the Central American region. Panama, due to its proximity to Central America and as a member of the Contadora Group -- with Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela -- is exerting itself to achieve peace in the Central American countries.

Panama rejects the subordination of the Central American issue to the rivalry of the superpowers of the East and West, because it makes us forget that the unrest and violence which afflicts the Central American countries is deeply rooted in the social, economic, and political injustices that have been a secular and constant scourge in these countries.

The Contadora Group's goals, clearly and firmly shared by the other Latin American countries, fully harmonize with the principles of peace, security, and justice stated in the UN Charter and the OAS Charter.

Consequently, we are pleased that you, Mr Secretary General, and the international public opinion have praised Contadora's rejection of any attempt to impose on the region the factors of the East-West confrontation, with all its undoubtable negative consequences. We are even more pleased because you have reasserted that you are permanently willing -- according to the Security Council's Resolution 530, which is a source of inspiration for Latin America -- to support the Contadora Group and report to the Security Council. You alsc reassert that a just and durable solution to the current situation of anguish which prevails in Central America will only be achieved through the Contadora Group and the five Central American countries.

It is appropriate to mention that on 11 November 1983, the UN General Assembly -- under Panama's Presidency -- approved by consensus Resolution 38-10, which states its most decided support of the Contadora Group, and welcomed with satisfaction the Declaration of Cancun and the Document of Objectives ratified by the Costa Rican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Honduran, and Nicaraguan Governments, which contains the bases to start negotiations that ensure a peaceful coexistence in Central America. Due to the Central American crisis, the UN General Assembly's resolution is still in effect -- above all the assembly's ratification that all the countries in the region have the right to live in peace and determine their own future, free of all foreign influence or intervention; and the assembly's call to other states in the region to abstain from starting or pursuing military operations with the intention of exerting a political pressure that will only worsen the regional situation and hinder the negotiation efforts being carried out by the Contadora Group -- by common agreement with the Central American governments.

Within this context, Latin America and peace-loving countries, inspired by UN ideals -- which you so accurately and wisely defended -- will reject any attempt by foreign powers to escalate any type of direct or indirect military intervention, and at the same time try to seek dialogue, negotiations, and understanding to achieve a lasting peace based on justice and respect of the fundamental human rights.

Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, your role as UN Secretary General in the efforts to achieve a just peace by solving the world's economic and social needs have inspired the Panamanian Government to confer upon you the Cross of Vasco Nunez de Balboa. This order was created in homage of the man who discovered the Pacific Ocean and is the most prized award that Panama bestows on citizens like you, Mr Secretary General, who have won a deserved and just recognition for your contributions toward peace, culture, and the general progress of mankind.

The Panamanian people and Government seek to honor, in your illustrious person, the UN ideals, and firmly contribute to strengthening and promoting the outstanding role you play so that the world organization effectively becomes a center that harmonizes the nations' efforts to achieve the goals of common benefits for mankind.

Dr Perez de Cuellar, I am privileged to ask you to accept the Cross of Vasco Nunez de Balboa as a genuine testimony of the sentiments of respect, affection and admiration that the Panamanian people and Government have for the United Nations and for you, Your Excellency, who will surely honor it as you honor Latin America. [applause]

COSTA RICA

MONGE DISCUSSES CENTRAL AMERICA WITH SCHLAUDEMAN

PA020002 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] President Luis Alberto Monge and U.S. roving Ambassador Harry Schlaudeman have spent approximately 1 hour analyzing the situation in Central America. During their first meeting they exchanged views on matters of common interest, it was learned. They talked in general about the problems in Central America, the Contadora Group efforts, the status of the negotiations, and the possibility for a peaceful resolution to the regional conflict. Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and U.S. Ambassador Curtin Winsor were present at the meeting, which President Monge termed as very positive.

Schlaudeman stressed the importance of democracy to the Central American people, while recognizing that important progress and advances had been made in some areas as a result of Contadora Group efforts. He mentioned the fact that as executive director of the Kissinger commission he had a special interest in the solution of the conflict. He was optimistic about the possibility of finding a definite, peaceful resolution and he termed the Salvadoran elections a victory of the Salvadoran people. He also said that he hopes that the elections scheduled for the end of the year in Nicaragua will contribute to a permanent peace in the region.

Schlaudeman made no comment regarding Nicaragua's accusations that the United States is promoting military escalation in the region. I have nothing to say about it, he added. But when he referred to Central American in general, he said that despite its deep-rooted problems, he is sure that the efforts for democratization and peace will continue.

Regarding the possibility of continuing the negotiations with the Salvadoran rebels, Schlaudeman said, let us wait and see what happens in the second round of the elections. I hope that by 1 June we will have a government in El Salvador elected by the people, he said.

The new roving ambassador believes that the U.S. Congress will approve the military and economic aid that the Kissinger commission has recommended for Central America. In regard to the aid that the United States is giving to the groups fighting against the Sandinist regime, Schlaudeman said he would rather not talk about it. He explained that his mission is to help to facilitate all peace efforts for Central America. He then mentioned that everyone is expecting the best to come out of the efforts of the Contadora Group.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON U.S. ENGINEERS

PA301805 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The decision to allow U.S. engineers to come to the country in September to carry out projects in the south does not reflect a change in policy, according to Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. From the very beginning, the government maintained that it was not advisable for the U.S. military engineers to be stationed in the area along the border with Nicaragua and that the country would benefit more from the completion of projects in the south.

Negotiations are under way with the U.S. Government to choose a number of projects to be carried out in the southern part of the country, from San Isidro del General to the Panamanian border, the foreign minister added.

Next week, Minister of the Presidency Fernando Berrocal Soto and U.S. Ambassador Curtin Winsor will tour the southern area to decide on the projects that the military engineers will carry out. The tour will encompass the cantons of Perez Zeledon, Osa, Golfito, Corredores and Coto Brus, where the need for facilities will be observed and a decision made as to the priority order in which the projects will be carried out.

GUTIERREZ DENIES U.S. INCREASES AREA TENSION

PA301535 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] AFP -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said that the U.S. military presence in Honduras is not increasing tension in Central America. The foreign minister said during a press conference that this tension is heightened by the events in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Gutierrez, who was in Tegucigalpa last weekend, said that the Hondurans feels their security is seriously threatened because they share extensive borders with Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, countries in which there is civil war, guerrilla activity and other problems of this type.

The Hondurans are concerned because most Central American wars have been fought on Honduran territory, Gutierrez said. He said the fact that Honduras is participating in military maneuvers with the United States and permits the presence of U.S. troops on its territory does not heighten tension in Central America.

Commenting on the results of his trip to Honduras, Gutierrez said that two minority parties in Honduras oppose the U.S. military presence. He noted that Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has said that the U.S. military presence in that country is temporary and is intended to improve the abilities and technical readiness of the Honduran Army.

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE REPORTED

PA311721 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government reiterates its concern over the incidents that the counterrevolutionaries have caused at the border and insists on the need to resume the meetings of the joint commission.

The statement was made by Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera in a note sent to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. In the letter the Nicaraguan Government again accuses the United States of provoking those incidents in an effort to upset Costa Rica's neutrality pledge and to damage Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations.

Talavera also insists that the United States has increased its presence in the area and its actions against Nicaragua. However, the note fails to answer Costa Rica's demand for an explanation of the attack against a Rural Police patrol in Conventillos, which produced a chilling of Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS CIVIL GUARD TO BORDER AREA

PA310439 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the Costa Rican Government on 29 March; read by Presidency Minister Fernando Berrocal -- recorded]

[Text] On Tuesday, 27 March, high-ranking Costa Rican Government officials met at the Presidential Palace with the secretary general and the legal representative of the Union of Transportation Workers [Sindicato de Transportistas, SITRAN]. After more than 2 hours of negotiations an agreement acceptable to both sides was reached and included in a document signed by the presidency minister and the union representative. The negotiations were formalized on Wednesday, 28 March, at the Treasury Ministry and the General Directorate of Immigration and Alien Affairs in accordance with the agreements reached on the previous day.

Likewise, the executive branch interministerial commission today concluded drafting a bill to amend the Law for the Financial Balance of the Public Sector [Ley Para el Equilibrio Financiero del Sector Publico], the emergency law that will be sent in the next few hours to the Legislative Assembly. In this manner the Costa Rican Government has fulfilled all the commitments made at Tuesday's meeting.

Inexplicably, the Union of Transporation Workers has not honored its commitments and today it has adopted an intransigent stance in violation of the public order and national security at the border zone of Penas Blancas. In view of the circumstances, the Costa Rican Government has ordered the Civil Guard to establish order and safeguard the traffic in that area of the country.

EL SALVADOR

ARENA CANDIDATE BARRERA OPTIMISTIC ABOUT VICTORY

PA312332 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 31 Mar 84 pp 5, 47

[Text] More than 56 percent of the voters voted against the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] had the citizens' support in the vote, Hugo Barrera, ARENA vice presidential candidate, said yesterday. Our party is ready for the runoff election and it is ready to successfully face that decisive political confronatation with the PDC, he said.

The ARENA leadership and rank-and-file are working with renewed enthusiasm at the national level, making all the necessary preparations for the next round. The enthusiasm in the work for ARENA's victory is encouraging, Barrera said. Barrera criticized the terrible organization of the elections by the groups involved noting that the Salvadoran people's desire to express their sovereign will was frustrated. Referring to the electoral registry, he said he is in favor of not using it in the runoff.

On expressing his optimism for victory in runoff election, vice presidential candidate Hugo Barrera called on Salvadorans who truly want to save the country from subversive aggression and who do not agree with the communal system supported by Christian Democracy to unite so that nationalism will definitely win over internationalism. He also issued a call to those who defend the democratic system and free enterprise to consolidate into a single political force and forget the small differences that might exist and to unite to save the fatherland with their votes in the decisive runoff election.

ARENA, OTHERS COMMENT ON OFFICIAL'S MURDER

PA021550 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Members of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, and other political party leaders have said that lawyer and journalist Rafael Hasbun's murder does not solve the nation's problems at all. They learned of the journalist's tragic death at a meeting yesterday afternoon. They said that the professional's murder is not a justification for fighting ideas with violence, if there is a true desire to create a democratic regime in the country.

Finally, they ask those responsible for this new act of violence to be prudent and sensible, because violence and murder will solve absolutely nothing. It was reported that Hasbun's funeral took place today in this capital city.

JUDICIAL CENTER REPORTS 5 BODIES DISCOVERED

PA021600 San Salvador Radio Cadena USKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] The Judicial Center today reported five victims of violence. The body of a man, so far not identified, was found south of the city. Rosales Hospital reports that the bodies of Jose Antonio Castillo, 28, Jaime Ernesto Mendez, from the suburb of (Cisneros), and Alvaro Lena Lemus, 79, have been found. Lena Lemus was reported found dead at 0935 in the suburb of San Jacinto. He had been riddled with gunshots. Finally, Jaime Alberto Romero, 29 was found shot to death.

WATER, SEWER WORKERS STRIKE FOR LEADER'S RELEASE

PA310442 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The National Administration of Waterworkers and Sewers, ANDA, Workers Federation as representative of ANDA's workers announces to the public that they have called a strike today to protest the arrest of Secretary General Carlos Ernesto Vasquez Someta, who is being held in one of the National Police prisons. We consider this an action taken to intimidate the workers. Our only alternative is to alert Salvadorans and peoples of the world to try to obtain Companero (Vasquez Someta's) freedom. He was accused of subversion, a charge we consider ridiculous, and we therefore reject all charges made against our secretary general.

We also announce to the Salvadoran people that beginning today we will stop work from 0800 to 1230 every working day. We will continue this action next week and until our Companero, Secretary General (Vasquez Someta, is released. We want the Salvadoran people to know, we have explained this before to the news media, especially when we were on strike demanding a wage increase, that we are not a political group and are not affiliated with any political group. We are not seeking the support of any political group, rightwing or leftwing.

We want the Salvadoran people to know that the charges against our secretary general are absolutely false and that we catergorically reject them.

We appreciate YSKL's cooperation. We also want to report that ANDA's workers have not received their wages for the month of March. We consider this management's way of intimidating the workers. We definitely reject such actions.

Venceremos Notes Arrest

PA301605 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Carlos Ernesto Vasquez, secretary general of the labor union of the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers, ANDA, was arrested 2 days ago by the National Police. ANDA labor union members denounced this and reported having received information from the International Red Cross that Carlos Ernesto Vasquez is being held by the National Police. ANDA workers staged a strike a few weeks ago that resulted in a victory for the workers. The arrest of the ANDA union secretary general is the response of the dictatorship. This is the response of the dictatorship to the workers' demands; this is the peace and justice the government promised after 25 March, the day of the electoral flop. We call on all workers to redouble the struggle for their objectives. We call on all workers to increase the number of strikes to achieve their just demands. We workers, who fight with rifle in hand, who fight and defeat the puppet army, greet and support you. The united workers represent the revolution.

REBELS RETURNING SEIZED PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

PA301515 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0129 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The guerrilla groups today began to return the personal identification documents they seized from the voters in the eastern part of the country prior to last Sunday's elections. Meanwhile, the Army is engaged in a "broad and important" tracking operation in the same area.

Spokesmen of the command headquarters in Chirilagua, 176 km southeast of San Salvador, told ACAN-EFE that the FMLN has begun to return the indentification documents "confiscated" before 25 March to keep the citizens from voting. They added that the rebels returned the documents to the local mayor's office, but did not explain what means they used to do this. Over 10,000 Salvadorans were deprived of their personal indentification documents, which prevented them from exercising their right to vote in last Sunday's presidential elections. In some cases, the FMLN burned or destroyed these documents, while in others, they were only "confiscated" to be returned to the municipalities where they had been issued. Besides several towns in the Departments of La Union, San Miguel, Usulutan, and San Vicente, the FMLN also "confiscated" indentification documents in the outskirts of the capital, military sources told ACAN-EFE.

Meanwhile, the Army this afternoon continued a "broad and important" tracking operation for guerrilla columns in the northern part of San Miguel Department, where it has besieged an area of five towns after having detected several rebel camps. The deputy commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, Colonel Mauricio Guzman Aguilar told ACAN-EFE that the tracking operations were expanded yesterday with more units which headed for the towns of Sesori, Ciudad Barrios, and Estanzuelas, from which they are operating against rebel hideouts detected in the area.

Elsewhere, military sources reported that troops of the 5th Infantry Brigade, with quarters at San Vicente, 60 km east of San Salvador, are tracking down FMLN forces in the rural sectors of Apastepeque. After several clashes with the rebels in that sector, the Army has suffered two dead and five wounded. In turn, the Army killed 14 rebels in actions in the Tapesquillo Alto and Loma La Cruz cantons, Jucuapa jurisdiction, 110 km east of San Salvador, where Salvadoran Army forces are engaged in an antiguerrilla operation, the sources noted.

VENCEREMOS ON U.S. INTENTIONS IN ELECTIONS

PA302005 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Imperialism is so desperate that Secretary of State George Shultz himself said today that military aid must be extended even if a coup d'etat should take place in El Salvador. Ronald Reagan's situation is critical; so much so that the announcement of D'Aubuisson's victory in San Vicente Department must have resulted in such pressure there from the U.S. Embassy, that half an hour after that announcement was made, Meza Delgado of Fortin Magana's party [Democratic Action], the conjuror or vote magician, showed up to announce that the previous announcement had been a mistake and that Duarte was the real winner in San Vicente Department.

[Words indistinct] the new results, the U.S. Government radio station VOA was already announcing a runoff election. The announcer did not conceal his enthusiasm, because Reagan will now have an entire month to win approval for millions of dollars in military aid and to involve Congress in the discussion of who will be the new president of the dictatorship: a madman or a murderer.

That was the purpose of the electoral farce: to cover up Reagan's interventionist military plot, and to disguise as a democracy a dictatorship that would not be able to survive a single minute without Ronald Reagan's planes, bombs, machine guns, and millions, in the face of the unstoppable advance of the Salvadoran people, who are demanding respect for their dignity and strengthening their organizations.

FDR'S UNGO COMMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

PA011606 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Presidential elections were held last Sunday in the Central American nation of El Salvador. Two aspects marked the date of 25 March: the organizational chaos sponsored by the United States, which culminated in an inoperative bureaucracy, and a massive turnout at the polls. Regardless of the results, which are not definitive since a runoff election will be necessary, almost everyone agrees that this time the guerrillas were not the major enemy of the elections, but the very machinery chosen to hold them.

For their part, the sectors that comprise the FMLN-FDR have reasserted what they said before the election: that 25 March was just another day in the war, and that the only real solution to the conflict continues to be a dialogue among all the sectors involved. Commenting on the outcome of the elections, [FDR President] Guillermo Ungo said this to our station from Latin America:

[Begin recording] [Ungo] As we had foreseen, the election has been a political defeat for the Reagan administration, which decided to hold, implemented, and directed yesterday's elections in El Salvador. All foreign correspondents agree that there was total confusion, which further facilitates an electoral fraud, and that this confusion was observed not only in the rural areas, but especially in the major cities, which are militarily controlled by the Salvadoran Government.

The elections were neither general nor national, since they could not be held in a large part of the territory. We have reports that no voting was held in about one third of the municipalities in the interior, especially in the east. We have learned that in 87 towns no voting was held, or the voting was practically just a ritual.

These have been the most expensive elections ever held in Latin America with U.S. funds -- $10.5 million -- and yet they were not even general elections. They were only presidential elections, not elections for members of the legislative assembly or congress. The results demonstrate that all this money was squandered. This was foreseeable, as the elections were held hastily, in accordance with President Reagan's political and electoral interests. There was a lot of improvisation despite the high technology and the computer system provided by the U.S. Government. There was no clear-cut winner in this election, which was held by and for the right wing. Neither the Christian Democratic Party, nor ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], nor the PCN [National Conciliation Party], the third leading party, can play a determining role because none advanced significantly to play such a role.

Therefore, and as was the case in 1982, the electoral show presented at the polls will be less important than the one put on at the U.S. ambassador's residence, where results favorable to Reagan's policy will be determined. Those are the elections that will truly count.

[Unidentified reporter] Could we say that the FMLN-FDR's insistence on dialogue remains the key issue for resolving this conflict?

[Ungo] When we presented our peace proposal in early February, we said that it was valid for before and after the elections. After this defeat, this farce, this tragicomedy, in which total disorder was the major constant, we think our proposal has gained even greater validity. The Salvadoran people feel disenchanted and deceived by these elections, and even those who did vote for fear of subsequent persecution if their cedula showed that they had not voted feel they are in a difficult situation, characterized by deception and discomfort. They too repudiate these elections, which did not even provide them with the chance to vote in order to safeguard their security and their lives. [end recording]

FMLN-FDR LEADERS DISCUSS ELECTION, U.S. ROLE

PA301600 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 12-A

[Report by Jorge Uribe N.]

[Text] The political-diplomatic commission of the Salvadoran FMLN-FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front], which represents the leadership of that Salvadoran guerrilla organization, said yesterday that the recent elections were "a complete failure" and that as a result of this, the possibility of direct U.S. armed intervention is greater than ever.

The leaders added that President Miguel de la Madrid's tour of four Latin American countries is "very important" to them because they are convinced that the Mexican president will address the serious problems that Central America is experiencing, particularly those of El Salvador, during his trip.

Ruben Zamora, Mario Aguinada Carranza, Hector Oquell, and Salvador Samayoa said during a press conference held at the Association of Foreign Correspondents in Mexico that the elections "took place in a climate of generalized military confrontation caused by the military operations that the U.S.-Salvadoran command had undertaken a few days earlier."

In addition to the widespread military activity carried out by the Salvadoran Army -- air and artillery attacks as well as the deployment of thousands of troops -- the Americans conducted "military exercises" on the Honduran-Salvadoran border that included 2,500 troops and they increased the number of spy plane missions over Salvadoran territory.

Why were they a failure?

Aguinada Carranza replied to that question. He said: "Because it seems as though the elections had been held yesterday and not on Sunday. Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, told several media -- as if he were in his own country -- that he believed the electoral process had been 'a success.'"

Aquinada Carranza added that the computer system had not worked and that at the last minute it was not used, that in San Salvador the locations of the polls were changed, that the ballots failed to arrive at many polls, that even the PDC [hristian Democratic Party] reported that one-third of the voters had been unable to cast their ballots. And as if that were not enough, Aguinada Carranza added, in view of the chaos that was rampant, the voter lists were eliminated in the afternoon. Also, he said that the elections had been partial, because from a total of 261 municipalities, only 172 took part in them (34 percent did not); that there was no voting in 30 of Chalatenango Department's 33 municipalities, in 8 Usulutan Department municipalities, in 13 of San Miguel Department's municipalities, and in 6 La Union Department municipalities.

The Political-Diplomatic Commission of the FMLN-FDR added that the United States spent $10.5 million just in "preparing" the elections, $3.4 million to compile the voting registries, $1.5 million in propaganda, $88,000 for transportation and accomodations for the foreign observers, $2 million in administrative services, $1 million in unforeseen expenses, and $88,000 to pay the Central Electoral Commission.

In regard to the guerrillas' pledge not to obstruct the elections, they said that there were only three or four incidents of this nature last Sunday, although the war went on before, during, and after the elections as they had previously announced. "As long as there is no provisional government in El Salvador, there is no possibility for peace. The elections were not and are not a military target. This idea is being well received, even in the Armed Forces, which is paying a high toll in human lives in this conflict," they stressed. The failure of the elections increases the possibility of direct armed intervention, they added. They said that the United States has a plan ready -- it is even numbered -- to invade El Salvador. The plan includes the participation of many U.S. and a few Honduran troops.

They stated that the FMLN does not intend to prove how much it represents the Salvadorn people. That was demonstrated in the 1972 elections, when Durate and Ungo won and the victory was taken away from them at the last minute. They added: Moreover, we are fighting against an Army that receives an average of $1 million each day, and we continue to gain ground.

They said they believed that President De la Madrid's trip to Latin America is very important because he will undoubtedly address the topic of the Central American conflict with the presidents of the Contadora Group. "Contadora is priceless to us because it made it possible to take the conflict out of the pan-American area at a time when the OAS was not showing any receptiveness to the problem," they concluded.

FMLN CLAIMS DUARTE, D'AUBUISSON SIGNED PACT

PA022200 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish El Salvador 1830 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] The Gringos have already managed to make D'Aubuisson and Duarte come to an agreement.

Duarte and D'Aubuisson have signed a pact and have given each other the embrace of criminal friends. Now the Gringos are bribing the National Conciliation Party [PCN]. ('Chachi') (?Francisco) Guerrero's home now looks like a brothel, where the different suitors go and come, trying to get a piece of the pie.

It seems that once again the Gringos are not going to achieve a government free of internal contradictions in El Salvador. PDC [Christian Democratic Party], PCN, and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], are the members of the new pact, promoted by the Gringos in order to try to arrange an agreement between the different sectors that want power. The elections are just another rehearsal of the foiled Apaneca Pact and the supposed national unity government. Some of the results of Duarte and D'Aubuisson's criminal pact are the murders of workers and peasants of the UPD [Democratic Popular Unity], the death squads' intensification of their repressive activities, and the National Police basements continue to be filled with Salvadorans. This is Duarte's true pact, a pact to continue the massacre of the Salvadoran people.

FMLN WARNS OFFICIALS 'THREATENING' NONVOTERS

PA021550 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] We have received reports that officials of several public offices serving the election-oriented political parties have been openly threatening [word indistinct] workers who did not attend the electoral circus on Sunday, 25 March. These corrupt officials and employers are trying to intimidate the people into participating in the second electoral round, made necessary because the 25 March popular repudiation rendered their election plan unsuccessful. The FMLN knows how to deal with those who use their (?positions) to lay their hands on or to conduct reprisals against Salvadoran workers and employees.

GUATEMALA

LOBOS ZAMORA PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

PA011955 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0105 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Colonel Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, Guatemala's deputy head of state and the Army's chief of staff, today was promoted to the rank of brigadier general with General Oscar Mejia Victores' support. After several coup rumors circulated during the past few months, the regime headed by Mejia since August last year tried to strengthen its position by appointing Lobos Zamora deputy head of state, thus consolidating its power. Lobos Zamora, considered Mejia's most trusted associate, is an officer identified with U.S. policy in Central America, according to local political observers.

HONDURAS

CONGRESS MEETS TO ACCEPT ALVAREZ 'RESIGNATION'

PA030102 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0038 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Congress met this afternoon to accept the "resignation" of General Alvarez Martinez as chief of the Armed Forces under the protection of many infantry soldiers and two armored personnel carriers with machine guns.

Congressional sources told ACAN-EFE that "today it will deal only with the resignation of General Alvarez Martinez and the other four generals who made up the military leadership." "The Congress has 15 days to elect new Armed Forces leaders," the sources added.

The Armed Forces today mobilized troops and armored personnel carriers to protect the Presidential Palace, the National Congress, and Armed Forces headquarters. Other than these "special security measures," which were not officially explained, traffic is normal in Tegucigalpa. Radio stations have broadcast a government communique asking the "people not to be disturbed in any way over these completely normal operations."

ALVAREZ REPORTEDLY FORCED OUT BECAUSE OF GRAFT

PA021640 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1618 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- General Gustavo Alvarez "resigned" from his post as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces because he was pressured by Army colonels, who accused him of corruption, a reliable civilian source close to military circles told ACAN-EFE today. The informant, who chose to remain anonymous, added that "the colonels of the Army battalion in direct command of troops stated before President Roberto Suazo Cordova that Gen Alvarez was implicated in a graft of more than $30 million."

Walter Lopez Reyes, commander of the Air Force, headed this internal movement in the Army and demanded that Alvarez, according to the law, "tender his resignation and leave the country," the confidential source added. The official explained that "Gen Alvarez, without the support of his intermediate command and supported only by the chiefs of the Police and the Navy, arrived in San Pedro Sula (in northern Honduras) at dawn on Saturday, while Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica traveled to Costa Rica to ask that it receive the former Armed Forces commander in chief."

ALVAREZ' TRUSTED OFFICERS UNDER 'HOUSE ARREST'

PA021933 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1856 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Three generals and three colonels who were trusted absolutely by General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez are under house arrest, the radio station "HRN" [La Voz de Honduras] today reported. According to the station, General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa, Daniel Bali Castillo, and Ruben Humberto Montoya, who resigned along with Alvarez Martinez last Saturday, are under "special vigilance by the Army in their homes in Tegucigalpa."

The radio station also claimed that the Army has Colonels Cristobal Diaz Garcia, Juan Lopez Grijalba, and Oscar Mejia Peralta under arrest in the military units. Cristobal Diaz was the private secretary of Alvarez Martinez; Mejia Peralta was the Army chief of staff; and Lopez Grijalba was in charge of military intelligence (G-2).

The radio station said that the reports were subject to official confirmation by bulletins of the Armed Forces Public Relations Office, but that the information had been obtained from sources at the government house. Bueso Rosa was a joint chief of staff and should have replaced Alvarez Martinez. Bali Castillo was police commander, and Montoya was commander of the Navy.

PAZ BARNICA COMMENTS ON ALVAREZ, EUROPEAN TOUR

PA030255 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2205 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Interview with Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica at Toncontin International Airport by unidentified Radio America reporter upon his departure to Europe on 1 April -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Paz Barnica] I received a call from the Spanish foreign minister last week, to set the date, and I will meet with him on 7, 8, and 9 April. I will also meet with directors of important Spanish information media. Prior to this, I will meet with the Danish foreign minister on 3 April, the day after tomorrow; with the Norwegian foreign minister on 5 April; and with the Portuguese foreign minister on 11 or 12 April. I will especially meet with Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares, who is one of the most outstanding leaders of the international social democracy.

[Reporter] Will you explain during these meetings the latest events which took place in Honduras, with the resignation of the four military commanders?

[Paz Barnica] Naturally, because on my way back I will meet with Dominican Foreign Minister Jose Augusto Vega Imbert; Santo Domingo's Mayor Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, who is also a social democratic leader; and I will possibly meet with the president of this friendly country, Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco. Naturally, during these meetings -- which will be covered by the national and international news media in these countries -- we will discuss bilateral affairs, analyze the Central American situation, review President Suazo Cordova's decision to strengthen a policy of peace within the framework of the Contadora Group's peace contacts, and possibly review the situation which prevails in this region. If they ask me, we will naturally talk about the latest events which took place in our country.

[Reporter] The position that you have maintained in Central American events has been described by many as reflecting both the foreign minister's creativity and President Suazo's foreign policy. Will Paz Barnica maintain this position and seek to accelerate the peace processes to avoid a conflict in the Central American region?

[Paz Barnica] I believe that the circumstances are now more favorable to carrying out a peace policy at regional level, based on the fundamental principles of our current international laws and Honduras' fundamental interests, which we must defend. However, I wish to state clearly that a peace policy is not the product of the foreign minister's personal endeavors but the government's doctrinal and pragmatic concept, under President Roberto Suazo Cordova's leadership. He is in charge of our foreign policy, according to our national Constitution.

[Reporter] President Suazo's address to the people at a time of crisis in the Armed Forces was quite clear. He said that the Armed Forces should not meddle in politics and politicians should not meddle in military affairs. Consequently, many observers believe that this will represent some kind of obstacle to the peace process in the Central American region and the internal situation which prevails in Honduras, Doctor.

[Paz Barnica] This is one of President Suazo Cordova's basic principles and he is constantly asserting this during his private meetings with the foreign dignitaries and government representatives who frequently visit our country. He has always said -- as he asserted in his highly praised address to the nation on Saturday night, regarding the latest events -- that the Armed Forces should not meddle in political affairs, and the politicians should not meddle in military affairs, meaning the garrisons.

Furthermore, President Suazo Cordova considers that this should be a standard of conduct in all the Latin American countries. Regarding the peace policy, I already told you I believe that the occasion is appropriate to increase our endeavors -- according to the guidelines given by the president of the Republic. After, almost 19 years of de facto governments and administrative disorder in our country, we now have a government that is essentially democratic and a popular leader like President Suazo Cordova. Therefore, we must have transition period to reorganize ourselves and to consolidate this democratic process.

The events that took place on Saturday were an internal reorganization that was requested by the Armed Forces, and the constitutional president of the Repbulic has currently assumed the role of Armed Forces general commander. He is also commander in chief of the Armed Forces according to our Constitution, and will seek to improve the country's image abroad in different sectors. He will also seek to consolidate democracy as our way of life and government system, within a pluralist framework that represents and includes the participation of our people, and to promote a peaceful coexistence in Central America within the framework of the Contadora Group, which has the government's firm support. It was precisely Honduras which decidedly contributed to create the Contadora Group, with its Latin American peace proposal. Honduras likewise presented -- and will continue to do so -- new, specific initiatives to achieve peace in Central America without betraying our national dignity, our sovereignty, and our republican and democratic institutions.

In addition, we believe that we can achieve substantial progress, as stated by President Suazo Cordova during his address to the Honduran people last Saturday, based on a policy that ensures full respect, guarantees, and safeguarding of human rights. All this makes it possible for the government -- within the political concepts of President Suazo Cordova, who is a great statesman and has the ability to fulfill the role to which he was elected by the people, even though some doubt this -- to promote and strengthen a policy of national consensus so that all the sectors agree on the need to achieve our democratization and maintain an unchangeable democratic institution in Honduras; to promote social and economic development, which is one of President Suazo Cordova's main concerns, and to hear, as he has done, the different demands and problems of the country's organized sectors -- mainly the voice of the Catholic Church. In our opinion, the Catholic Church plays an important role, and it has said we must help the oppressed and those who suffer and live in misery in rural areas and in our urban slums. I believe we have started a new phase, within the framework of our constitutional government, 2 years before President Suazo Cordova ends his term. I have known him for more than 27 years, and not only because we share the same political beliefs and ideologies, but because we share a close friendship. I am quite sure that he will go down in history as one of our country's best presidents, for his intelligence, capacity, dynamism, and courage.

[Reporter] Doctor, excuse me, you have always said that Nicaragua represents an obstacle for the Contadora Group. Was Alvarez Martinez' presence in the Armed Forces in any way also an obstacle for the peace process?

[Paz Barnica] What I said is that Nicaragua has been an obstacle for the Contadora Group's peace efforts, and I reaffirm this. The fact that it called for a UN Security Council meeting last week -- 3 or 4 days before the Contadora Group was scheduled to start another technical meeting with the Central American representatives who are members of the four work commissions created due to a Honduran proposal -- is further proof that the Nicaraguan Government is trying to boycott the Contadora Group.

Regarding the second part of your question, I consider that every country should defend its democratic institutions; it must defend the democracy created by the people as a way of life, as a system of government; it must defend the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty. In this regard, we have the channels of diplomatic negotiations -- hence, the Contadora Group. In my opinion, and I assert this, this is a forum for strategy and negotiation, and a warmongering language does not contribute to furthering the development of these peace efforts. We believe these efforts will help us achieve our goal, in a regional and overall way.

Look, Nicaragua has insistently said for the past 2 years that the solutions should be on a bilateral level, and it has stubbornly rejected the thesis suggested by Honduras: Its 23 March 1982 peace proposal said there should be a regional and overall solution. Now, even the Nicaraguans are talking about regional and overall solutions. A friend told me that Commander Daniel Ortega -- or another high leader of the Nicaraguan Government -- said in Mexico that the Nicaraguan Government is willing to discuss and solve its support to the Salvadoran guerrillas. He added that this support to the guerrilla movements in Central America should be also solved in a regional and overall context. That is a fact.

[Reporter] Doctor, Honduras and Nicaragua both claim that there should be an overall agreement. Then why not solve the Central American conflict [words indistinct]

[Paz Barnica] Beg your pardon?

[Reporter] Honduras claims that there must be an overall agreement. Now Nicaragua upholds the same idea, then why. . .

[Paz Barnica interrupts] Because we are in the process of a regional and overall agreement within the framework of Contadora. When five central American foreign ministers meet with four Latin American foreign ministers, in this case those of the Contadora Group, or when the work commissions of the five countries meet with the technical group of the five countries, they are multilateral talks seeking an overall solution. This is an extremely complex process. We are dealing with political issues involving democratization. In Central American there are countries where no elections have been held. Nicaragua is one of the countries. There must be a true democratic opening. The people, with full guarantees, must elect the government they wish.

In Guatemala, there is the question of a domestic reconciliation. In countries where there are domestic conflicts there must be dialogue between the government and the political and armed opposition. Human rights must be respected. I stress what I have said before: that a government gains or loses international prestige to the extent that it respects or violates human rights. There are very delicate security problems. In the opinion of Honduras and several other countries, among them Costa Rica, the military balance in Central America must be restored. This balance has been upset by Nicaragua's excessive arms buildup and by the confrontation in this small area of the world between the interests of the two superpowers -- the USSR on the one hand, and the United States on the other. There are other security issues, and those regarding social and economic development that are necessary for peace and democracy.

[Reporter] Is it true that General Alvarez Martinez refused to negotiate at the head of state level with Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction?

[Paz Barnica] President Suazo rules this country. The commander in chief of the Armed Forces has specific duties as outlined by the Constitution. President Suazo has always been open to dialogue. He always answered Nicaragua's notes at the highest level, that is to say those made by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. However, he always stressed Honduras' stand on the need for an overall and regional agreement, which is a complex diplomatic negotiating formula, but through which we believe peace can be attained. In order to achieve peace we must create a climate of detente.

The information war, the war of confrontations that Nicaragua has been waging must also stop. Honduras is willing to end this war. Honduras will not change its foreign policy of promoting a peaceful policy for Central America. It will uphold basic principles of international law, like non-intervention, the people's right to self-determination, a respect for human rights and countries' territorial integrity, and so forth.

[Reporter] It has been said that you took General Alvarez to Costa Rica. It has also been said that the changes in military command took place at a time when the circumstances so demanded because of the authoritarian power wielded by the chief of the Armed Forces. This means that the government's goals of social development have been strengthened, as you said a moment ago.

[Paz Barnica] I believe that the moment is ripe for the government under President Suazo's undisputed rule to strengthen its actions domestically and abroad. Regarding your first question claiming that I took General Alvarez Martinez to Costa Rica, that is not true. I understand that General Alvarez Martinez was transferred around 1000 and that he arrived around 1130 at San Jose from San Pedro Sula.

I went to Costa Rica at 1400 on a mission entrusted to me by President Suazo. Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez was waiting for me. From there the two of us left. He was driving his car. I went to meet President Luis Alberto Monge, who stressed his full support for Honduran democracy, for President Suazo Cordova, and for our country's civilian regime. From there I went to the office where General Alvarez was staying, and we talked for about 30 minutes.

[Reporter] What did General Alvarez have to say?

[Paz Barnica] I would not like to comment on that.

[Reporter] Where is he going after leaving Costa Rica, since he did not ask for political asylum?

[Paz Barnica] I have read some declarations by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez in the newspapers today. He made those declarations over Radio Monumental yesterday. He said that Gen Alvarez can remain in Costa Rica as long as he wishes and until he decides where he wants to go.

[Reporter] Does the Honduran Government believe that the rebellion -- or could we call it the reorganization within the Honduran National Army -- fulfills the principles of President Suazo's government?

[Paz Barnica] I do not believe that there has been a rebellion. There was a decision by the Armed Forces High Command, by the Armed Forces Superior Council. This has been explained clearly because that is their purview.

They explained in their communiques Numbers 1, 2 and 3 on Saturday that this is aimed at enforcing the constitutional principle that the Armed Forces are a permanent, apolitical, and basically professional institution. They are obedient and nondeliberative. I think it is clear that the Honduran Armed Forces, which have set so many examples of a high civic spirit and have guaranteed the people's right to vote and to establish democracy, have once again proven their interest in helping to solve national problems. They are doing this with a firm, determined, and unwavering support for the constitutional, democratic President Roberto Suazo Cordova, who has handled this situation very well and intelligently.

[Reporter] One last question. Msgr Rodriguez, one of the most brilliant prelates in this country, has said that the Catholic Church is very worried about the situation in Honduras and the acts of repression that were being carried out in the country. Did this in any way contribute to the changes that occurred in the country's Armed Forces?

[Paz Barnica] I couldn't say whether they contributed or not. However, I believe that statements made by the Catholic Church, Msgr Rodriguez, and other high officials also cause the government concern, because there is a consensus that strong measures should be taken to achieve economic development and social changes for the benefit of the poor masses and the majority of the people. There should be an equal distribution of welfare for all sectors. Governments belong to the people, and should answer to the people's needs. That is President Suazo Cordova's viewpoint.

[Reporter] One last question. Will there be an end now to the repression, missing persons, arrests, and the uncertainty that the Honduran people were experiencing?

[Paz Barnica] I am sure that President Suazo Cordova will reaffirm his determination to observe the constitutional norms that our country's legal and political regime requires.

NICARAGUA

U.S. ENVOY SCHLAUDEMAN BRINGS 'STATE TERRORISM'

PA301855 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 84

["Beyond the News" commentary by Carlos Chammoro: Shlaudemann's Trip to the Region"]

[Text] It is obvious that the mission of the new U.S. roving ambassador to Central America, Harry Shlaudemann, better known as "the butcher of Chile," is to counteract and neutralize the trip of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, and Venezuela. In fact, Shlaudemann himself confirmed the objective of his sinister mission by saying that the presence of U.S. troops in Central America and the support to the Somozists are not incompatible with the negotiating efforts of the Contadora Group.

This is the same idea as his tutor, the even more sinister Henry Kissinger, introduced in the already notorious report carrying his name. Therefore, Shlaudemann is neither here on a mission of peace, nor is does he have the least intention to settle anything. Instead, he comes to set up the political conditions to impose on his interlocutors the Reagan-Kissinger formula of state terrorism. That is, to turn state terrorism into a legal instrument, accepted by the other nations, to also force any country to accept the onerous conditions imposed by the United States. It is what they call incentives and pressures.

That is exactly what is being done with Nicaragua, where they can bomb towns, mine ports, and kill peasants unpunished in the eyes of international opinion -- without provoking the slightest protest except from the country affected, which must accept punishment by an aggressor who intends to legitimize his crime.

And naturally, there is no reasoning with Reagan, Kissinger, Schultz, or Shlaudemann, because they only believe in brute force as a political instrument. But man, being civilized and not a wild animal, must know how to oppose brute force with intelligence and reasoning. Thus, state terrorism, being proper for cavemen, must be faced with a firm but flexible policy that can at the same time resist the furious onslaughts of the Somozist wild beasts and amply defeat this troglodyte policy.

Therefore, the Sandinist revolution faces a big challenge, with state terrorism threatening to undermine the foundations of international law.

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. 'STATE TERRORISM'

PA020215 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Mar 84

["Beyond the News Reports" feature -- "Nicaragua's Right to Defense"]

[Text] The sovereignty of a people is not discussed; it is defended with weapon in hand. This was the slogan used by the father of the people's anti-imperialist revolution and general of the free men, Augusto C. Sandino. Today this continues to be our slogan because it is the natural right of man.

In the face of open war by imperialism, which is escalating daily, we have no choice but to defend ourselves using every means available. The fact that a powerful nation like the United States, using all its available resources, should attack us as it is doing before the impassive eyes of a large part of the international community is something that cannot be tolerated. What is even more serious is the precedent set which is now being called state terrorism. State terrorism is defined as a powerful nation attacking a weaker one, breaking all the rules that regulate the peaceful coexistence of the nations. In the face of this impassiveness we have been forced to defend our threatened sovereignty by asking for help from those countries who wish to and can help us. It is from this perspective that we view the trip of our defense minister, Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, who went to the USSR and the DPRK accompanied by a large delegation.

It would be absurd to believe that Nicaragua will sit on its hands in the face of a terrorist escalation unprecedented in the history of our America -- an imperialist war not only against Nicaragua but also against all the other countries on this earth. We have said this before and it was recently confirmed by the French Solidarity Committee France-Latin America [as heard] when it said that the attack against our country is an intolerable act of war aimed at drowning the Nicaraguan economy since a developing country is totally dependent of the supplies it receives via its waters. The group was specifically referring to the fact that the Lafayette, a French-flag ship ironically named after the French soldier who helped the United States during its war of independence, could not sail near the Nicaraguan coast.

Meanwhile, Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko recently said that the United States is waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua with its state terrorism. Therefore, the Nicaraguans have no other choice but to exercise our sovereign right to defense against those who attack us.

We have generously offered the olive branch, but being rejected, we have no other choice but to take up the undefeated Sandinist armament of war.

U.S. ENVOY QUAINTON'S RADIO PERFORMANCE VIEWED

PA310417 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Report by Eligio Alvarez: "Mr Quainton Appeared on Radio Sandino's 'Direct Line' Phone-In Program With Evasiveness, Confusion and Smiles"]

[Text] Anthony Quainton, U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, who is ending his tour in our country, last night more than ever demonstrated his capacity to evade and elude--not without some Yankee humor, of course--when he responded to the many questions that a group of journalists from the most diverse political and ideological spectrums put to him on the popular "Direct Line" program on Radio Sandino.

On what could have been his last appearance on this station, Ambassador Quainton remained unflappable in the systematic defense of the aggressive and interventionistic policies of the Reagan administration against the Nicaraguan people--policies which he persuasively described as directed at protecting both countries' interests.

In response to a specific question of a Radio Sandino reporter regarding why the United States has militarily attacked Nicaragua, while at the same time claiming to support the Contadora Group peace efforts, Mr Quainton, totally unruffled by the question, answered that he found no incompatibility between the two actions--rather, he described them as complementary. We should state that the majority of the journalists' questions, shaded in one manner or another and perhaps with different aims, were on the current and heated topic of the U.S. intensification of its aggression against our revolution.

In almost all of his responses, or perhaps in all, the U.S. ambassador always evaded the frontal view of the problem, skillfully slipping onto the topic of the supposed intervention of the USSR, Cuba, and Nicaragua in El Salvador, which meant, according to Mr Quainton, that these are the nations really responsible for promoting violence in the region, and not the United States. We have reached the point where the situation in Central America has worsened, and in my opinion, the U.S. diplomat said, the time has come for the Sandinist leadership to reflect on its own position, and as a consequence take the necessary steps to find a negotiated settlement with its neighbors and my country.

As we might well imagine, in response to such deceitful conduct -- to say the least -- there was little or nothing positive to be derived from the dialogue with Mr Quainton as even the question posed by Chuno Blandon on the criminal mining of our ports and the resulting victims and damage did not jolt him. He remained unflappable and smiling right to the end, as if with a smile he could cover up U.S. imperialism's crimes against the Central American peoples.

RAMIREZ ASSERTS 'YANKEES WILL NOT DEFEAT US'

PA020029 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government for National Reconstruction, yesterday said: We are sure that the Yankees will not defeat us by mining our ports. Ramirez issued this statement when interviewed by the press after the "Face the People" program, which was held at the (Heroes de Macarami) and Angel Valentin Obarrio neighborhood, first and second sector of the Schick housing project, respectively.

Mercado pointed out that this is a desperate Yankee maneuver, but no people can be brought to their knees when they have the courage and unity of the Nicaraguan people. He pointed out that history has proven that these actions will never lead to the defeat of a nation but will strengthen its people's courage and fortitude. He added that the important thing is to maintain vigilance and the will to resist this. When asked about our coffee and cotton exports, the Sandinist leader asserted that this situation will be covercome and that we can rest assured that nothing will defeat us.

CORDOVA RIVAS ON JUSTICE, U.S. 'AGGRESSION'

PA311648 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Dr Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has said that the FSLN has given a new legal framework to justice in Nicaragua with the promulgation of the electoral law and the political parties law.

During the closing of the second course for local judges, Cordova Rivas added that the judicial branch is not outside of the transformations because these are an integral part of the entire process. Rivas indicated that despite the critical situation that has become more serious with the constant aggression carried out by the Reagan administration, Nicaraguans are determined to continue the institutionalization of the process through the promulgation of new laws. Rivas also pointed out that the United States is bent on crushing the Sandinist people's revolution, but the United States has not taken into consideration the Contadora Group, which seeks a peaceful solution through dialogue, as well as the people's determination to defend their sovereignty.

UNIONIST SAYS U.S. 'AGGRESSION' AFFECTS ELECTION

PA310039 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Jose Espinosa, vice president of the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board, said one of the factors that would affect the November elections in Nicaragua would be an increase in armed aggression and the mining of the Nicaraguan ports by the U.S. Government. Espinosa, who also represents the Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions, CUS, at the State Council, said that CUS does not feel that the perpetrators of the Nicaraguan people's genocide should be allowed to come to Nicaragua.

[Begin recording] [Espinosa] I want to clarify that we do not oppose the revolution. We are a revolutionary Nicaraguan people, and whatever may happen in this country now, the Nicaraguan people will continue to be revolutionaries who dissent with the leaders of the revolution, which, I can say, brings us hope. We know that there is hope for our triumph.

We hope that the intentions expressed thus far are nothing more than what the elections will be. Now we want to see the conditions under which the elections will be carried out, if they will be free. We continue to think, and in this case I will speak on behalf of the CUS, the CUS feels that at least if the state of emergency is not lifted, it should be modified so that it will not hinder civic and legal organizations in Nicaragua.

[Unidentified reporter] The U.S. Government has increased its aid to the counter-revolutionaries by $20 million. The aggressions on the country, the minings -- we know that the Port of Corinto was attacked by warships today -- would these actions by the counterrevolutionaries and the U.S. Government prevent or affect elections in Nicaragua?

[Expinosa] We feel that this is one of the factors that shows that conditions are not ideal for elections, but we think that the Nicaraguan Government -- and in this case we must involve ourselves -- should promote, should be willing to hold a national dialogue to discuss, to analyze the situation, and to achieve the unity of the Nicaraguan people in order to face all that is adverse for this country. We pointed this out in a document released on 28 March. We feel that it was a document that could have stirred interest. It reflected our good intentions and our patriotism in calling for the conditions that should exist for the elections. But unfortunately, it became a target for our attack, for allegations claiming that we wanted the return of the Somozists to this country, and we have repeated [words indistinct] several times, and once more today, we do not promote the return to the country of murderers. We promote -- and we are honest enough to admit this -- the return of the Nicaraguan family which has a right to live in this country, and in this regard we were filled with joy when the government announced the amnesty law which allowed the return of exiled persons; but in our judgement, the law was incomplete.

[Reporter] Then you agree that Alfonso Robelo, traitor Pastora, Fernando Chamorro, Brooklyn Rivera, and Fagoth should not return?

[Espinosa] In reality, we do not want to speak of persons. We speak of -- I would have to say -- of genocide, of the people's murderers. However, within this group, I do not have the data, the knowledge, the proof of their being murderers. We feel that those who are murderers should not be allowed to return. [end recording]

COMMENTARY VIEWS FALL OF HONDURAS' ALVAREZ

PA011801 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Honduran President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova yesterday rode out his government's worst crisis after he demanded that General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, Armed Forces commander in chief, resign his post. President Suazo also ordered Alvarez to leave the country immediately. Suazo assumed the post of commander in chief of the Honduran Army. In solidarity with their dismissed chief, General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa, chief of the Armed Forces joint command, and Generals Daniel Bali Castillo and Ruben Humberto Montoya, police and naval commanders, respectively, also resigned. Only the Air Force chief, General Walter Lopez Reyes, remained loyal to the president. He is practically Armed Forces chief because of his rank.

What were the causes for Gen Alvarez' resounding fall, since he was the United States' man in Central America, as he had been described? A presidential adviser who asked to remain unidentified last night disclosed that over the past 4 months a commission composed of high-ranking Army officers and Cabinet members started the evaluation of Honduras' declining domestic and international situation. As a result, the conclusion was drawn that the responsibility for this delicate situation was to be pinned on Gen Alvarez.

During this in-depth analysis of the Honduran crisis, the concentration of power in the hands of the Armed Forces chief was stressed, as well as his air-tight national security policy, his urgent desire to assume control of all civilian and military organizations, and his arrogance. This led him to reject all criticism from Armed Forces circles. The team analyzing Hondruas' strongman even remarked that the situation was such that the civilian population dreaded the men in uniform, despite the fact that the Army constantly draws its members from the people.

This was very much stressed because it was considered that, should Honduras become involved in an international conflict -- as the Reagan administration is apparently planning -- the Honduran people would be apathetic and unwilling to support an Army that often represses them without justification.

Gen Alvarez had infiltrated trusted individuals into various political and union organizations, as well as into some key posts of the public administration. During the analysis, the military officers themselves brought up the topic of human rights and determined that Alvarez' national security policy only served to violate such rights. In addition, the team discussed the disappearance of persons who were never again heard from, violence outbreaks, and an unmeasured increase of popular unrest, more noticeable every day, which is not good for the country's stability.

The source, a presidential adviser, also reported that Gen Alvarez had been given a reasonable time to effect changes, but when the alloted term had elapsed, nothing had happened. Then, the president finally decided to ask for Alvarez' resignation. This occurred yesterday. The unexpected announcement elicited expectation, unrest, and interest in Central American capitals, the rest of America, and, of course, the United States.

However, John Dimitri Negroponte, U.S. Ambassador to Tegucigalpa, who has been considered a CIA member and leader of Reagan's aggressive policy in the region, dared tell journalists that he did not know anything of the matter, and that his government did not expect such a crisis in Honduras, where an Army's entire top echelon resigned.

CREATION OF CONTADORA CRISIS COMMITTEE PROPOSED

PA022151 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Nicaragua will propose to the Contadora Group the creation of a Crisis Committee to avert the current threat of war in the region, Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said in Panama. He added that in the past weeks the bellicose situation in the area has taken a turn for the worse due to counterrevolutionary activity -- technically, economically, and financially assisted by the Reagan administration.

JUNTA NAMES MENESES FONSECA NEW LABOR MINISTER

PA311558 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The cabinet of the Government Junta already has a new labor minister to replace Virgilio Godoy, for whom the revolutionary government is giving a farewell party today. The new labor minister is Companero Benedicto Meneses Fonseca, who has efficiently held the post of deputy labor minister until today. There has been no report yet as to who will fill the vacant post of deputy minister. Godoy left the ministry to devote himself full time to leading the Independent Liberal Party in the race for power in November, taking advantage of the political opening offered by the revolutionary leadership.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA VISITS DPRK, MEETS OFFICIALS

For reports on the visit of Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega to the DPRK, including his talks with O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of the People's Armed Forces, see the North Korea section of the 3 April and subsequent issues of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

MALMIERCA ARRIVES IN FRANCE FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

FL021158 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has arrived in Paris for an official working visit at the invitation of the French Government. The Cuban foreign minister arrived in France from Africa, where he toured several countries including Upper Volta and Guinea. In the latter country, he attended the funeral of the late President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

Malmierca is scheduled to meet today with French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson. They will review some of the principal problems of the current international situation and of bilateral relations.

Holds Talks With Cheysson

FL030146 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] The Cuban and French foreign ministers have held talks in Paris. They examined the situation in Central America and the African southern cone. Isidoro Malmierca and Claude Cheysson agreed that there can be no military response to the crisis in Central America, where it is necessary to find a political solution. Malmierca is paying a working visit to France.

UNCTAD DELEGATE SCORES 'AGGRESSIVE' U.S. POLICY

PA021435 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] At the UNCTAD meeting, Cuba has denounced the aggressive policy that the United States is carrying out in the world, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean, and has added that this systematic aggressiveness does not allow a climate adequate for successful economic negotiations. Cuban delegate Carlos Lechuga said that the economic crisis is still one of the most disturbing factors in the international field and that together with policies involving power and military control, it represents a really dramatic situation in today's world. Lechuga denounced the intransigent stance in the negotiations taken by the industrialized countries, especially the United States. You cannot spend $800 billion on military activities without hurting the policy of cooperation for development, Lechuga indicated.

He said that in underdeveloped countries the same number of children die at less than 5 years of age as live to the same age in Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, and the FRG.

Lechuga referred to the developing countries' foreign debt as one of the main problems affecting their development, and he stressed the obligation of Third World countries to continue struggling for a new international economic order.

OIL COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR

FL030225 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] The ministers of the Soviet Union's petroleum industry and Cuba's basic industry, Nikolay A. Mal'tsev and Marcos Portal, have signed a cooperation protocol in oil production at the conclusion of talks held by the two delegations in Moscow. The document provides for cooperation in that industrial branch and the assistance of Soviet specialists in carrying out projects.

MANUEL TORRES TO HOLD COOPERATION TALKS IN SDAR

FL030212 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] Cuba and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic will hold talks on their relations of cooperation in various spheres. For that purpose, a delegation headed by Manuel Torres vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, has arrived in the SDAR to participate in the first meeting of the Cuban-SDAR Joint Committee. The director for Latin America of that fraternal country's Foreign Ministry, (Umar Mansur), will head the SDAR delegation.

FIRST ENERGY CONSERVATION CONFERENCES BEGIN

FL021520 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] The first conference studying Cuba's state organization energy situation will take place today, Monday, at 1400 at plant No 1 of Havana's Nico Lopez petroleum refinery. Pilot conferences at production and service centers in Guantanamo, Caimanera, Aniceto Perez, and Baracoa municipalities and municipalities in eastern Cuba will also take place today. On Thursday a pilot conference will take place in each of Havana's municipalities and in Villa Clara Province.

Workers will analyze and offer their suggestions on adopting measures which could decrease their petroleum consumption with current available resources. Ways to decrease electricity, lubricant, and fuel consumption will also be discussed. The National Commission on Energy [Comision Nacional de Energia, CNE] has provided the conference with valuable technical and organizational guidelines for the success of this conference.

Other subjects which will be discussed will be the operation of air conditioners and refrigerators, the use and control of fuel, and the reduction of fuel consumption in state-run kitchens. At the conferences the best works dealing with energy saving and usage will be selected for presentation at the first meeting of the National Forum on Energy.

CHERNENKO, ETHIOPIAN LEADER MEET IN MOSCOW

PA021330 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The CPSU general secretary, Kostantin Chernenko, has held a friendly conversation with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, currently on a friendly visit of the USSR. During their meeting the two leaders underlined the successful relations between the two countries and voiced their support for the strengthening of relations between the CPSU and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia.

Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed his gratitude to the Soviet people and Government for their assistance in the economic development of Ethiopia and the improvement of its defensive capability. In that respect Chernenko assured the Ethiopian leader that the USSR will continue supporting socialist Ethiopia, which is advancing toward great socioeconomic changes and the defense of its people's freedom and independence.

After examining the international situation, the two leaders agreed that the greatest danger to world peace at the present time is U.S. aggressiveness in its intent to dominate the world through militarization.

In regard to Africa, Chernenko and Haile Mariam pointed out that the Reagan administration is intensifying its policy of pressure against the nations of the continent. Chernenko said that after the victory of the Ethiopian revolution, soon to celebrate its 10th anniversary, the relations between the two countries became stronger, while new facets of friendship became evident through the cooperation efforts between Ethiopia and the USSR.

LATIN AMERICAN IPU MEMBERS SUPPORT CONTADORA

PA022258 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Legislators from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal meeting in Madrid have reaffirmed their support for the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace in Central America. They stressed the urgency of seeking solutions to the crisis in that area. The legislators agreed to propose that the Central American issue be included in the agenda for the IPU meeting that opens tomorrow in Geneva.

Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez met with legislators from Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, Brazil, and Bolivia.

NICARAGUA'S TORRES ON CONTRA ACTIVITIES

FL030016 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] The FAR Political Information Program has established telephone contact with Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the Sandinist People's Army Political Directorate, who is going to grant us a brief interview.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, the United States and its allies are stepping up preparations for a large scale military aggression against Nicaragua. We would like to hear you evaluate the intensification of the enemy's activities against your fatherland.

[Torres] It is obvious that the counterrevolutionary activity has intensified in recent days, following the failure of the hackneyed offensive of the last days of 1983 and beginning of 1984, an offensive which was repelled by our people and the Armed Forces, reserves, and militia troops. This counterattack inflicted heavy casualties on the counterrevolutionary forces and dispersed their main units, pushing them back into Honduran territory.

In recent days there has been an infiltration of a considerable number of counterrevolutionaries in groups -- newly organized groups such as regional commandos, led by the best known counterrevolutionary leaders. Each regional commando is composed of a number of task forces and these, in turn, are subdivided into detachments and counterrevolutionary groups.

Precisely one of those task forces attacked the town of San Rafael del Norte in recent days. This is the same one with which we have been making contact in the Department of Jinotega, inflicting on it more than 140 dead and a large number of wounded. Through the initiative of our forces, this task force's plans have been disrupted.

There are other counterrevolutionary elements which have penetrated through the north of Zelaya, between the Departments of Jinotega and Zelaya, which we have already engaged in combat. These groups were the ones which sabotaged a hydroelectric dam that generates electricity for the mines we have in that area.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the mining of ports?

[Torres] This counterrevolutionary activity has been characterized by mining the Atlantic and Pacific ports, mainly Corinto. To date, a large number of freighters have been victims of the mines that the CIA, through the counterrevolutionary commandos, has laid in our waters. Japanese, Panamanian, and Liberian freighters, and a Soviet tanker as well as other types of ships have been damaged by the mines.

[Reporter] How high a price in blood are the Nicaraguan people paying for those imperialist aggressions?

[Torres] As you can see, we are waging a war in our country every day, a war which daily causes victims. As a result of this new type of war being forced upon us by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Government, there are a large number of victims, dead and wounded, kidnapped, peasants who have been forced to go to Honduras or Costa Rica. In addition, there exists a situation of uncertainty at all our ports, a situation of open terrorism, legalized, so much so that the U.S. Congress is debating whether to grant $21 million to the CIA so that it may continue its counterrevolutionary and terrorist activities against our country. This is a case of state torrorism. In that sense, the counterrevolutionary activity has intensified and, in addition, there is a U.S. military presence in Honduras that continues to grow daily.

Part of the 82 Airborne Division is in Honduras. This is the same one that invaded Grenada. The mightiest U.S. men-of-war have sailed along our coasts, including destroyers, frigates, and aircraft carriers. There is a constant presence of U.S. warships off our Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The aircraft carrier America is moving along our Atlantic coast flanked by all its escort warships. On the Pacific side, there are frigates with missiles, sophisticated arms.

We have appealed to all reasonable, progressive, and peace-loving governments. Some of them have responded positively to keeping peace in Central America, because a war against Nicaragua, against the Salvadoran revolutionary movement would have unforeseeable consequences for our peoples and for the American people themselves.

We have presented via telephone this interview with Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the Sandinist People's Army Political Directorate.

NICARAGUA'S TINOCO ACCUSES U.S. OF WAGING WAR

FL021420 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Party Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has accused the United States of carrying out a virtual naval and air war against his country. Tinoco used these terms to refer to recent port minings and land and air attacks carried out by counterrevolutionaries with the help of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. He said that the presence of about 5,000 U.S. soldiers in the region constitutes a destabilizing factor not only for Nicaragua but also for the entire area.

Tinoco said the dynamics of the war and Central American realities are getting out of the Contadora framework, thus obligating the group to revise its current mechanisms in attempting to solve the crisis that is being caused by the presence of these new factors.

NICARAGUA REQUESTS UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

FL301226 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The UN Security Council will analyze today the escalation of the U.S.-backed aggression against Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan mission requested the meeting and announced that it will denounce the unprecedented increase in the U.S. military presence in Central America, as well as the intensification of its attacks on Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan mission recalled that the Pentagon has sent ships, aircraft carriers, planes, and thousands of soldiers to Honduras where most attacks on and infiltrations into Nicaragua begin.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega said that his country's Armed Forces are ready to face a direct U.S. intervention. He made this statement shortly before leaving for the USSR and the DPRK heading a delegation of the FSLN party and government. Ortega said that it is expected that 1,000 counterrevolutionaries will enter Nicaragua through the Nueva Segovia region in the next few days. It was recalled that two counterrevolutionary groups which entered Nicaragua through that region and that of Jinotega in early March sustained more than 135 casualties.

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON 'SLANDER CAMPAIGN'

PA020608 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has issued a document in which it refers to a slander campaign to blame Nicaragua for supposedly mining Central American ports. The Foreign Ministry note says that the slander campaign is part of the aggressive plans against Nicaragua, as well as an attempt to justify the terrorist actions being carried out since 1981 against the Nicaraguan people. Finally the document says that the Nicaraguan Government's respect for international law is the basic norm of its conduct and that it will never resort to the practice of state terrorism like the one that is being carried out against Nicaragua.

NICARAGUA WILLING ON DIALOGUE WITH HONDURAS

PA020557 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has reiterated his government's willingness to conduct a dialogue with the Honduran Government to resolve the situation between the two countries and in all of Central America. Speaking of the changes that have occurred within the Honduran Army High Command, Daniel Ortega said that the United States has been involving Honduras in is policy of aggression and terror against Nicaragua and El Salvador, and has used men like General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez for its purposes.

Meanwhile, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said that it is necessary to closely follow the new situation in Honduras following General Alvarez Martinez' replacement. General Alvarez was at the head of an Army that always offered its support to the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

NICARAGUA CONDEMNS DAMAGE TO JAPANESE SHIP

PA021455 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has condemned the explosion of a mine which hit the Japanese ship Taushiro Mahuro, which had gone into the Port of Sandino to load 13,600 bales of cotton. The ship's engines were damaged by the explosion and it had to be towed back to a dock in the Port of Sandino.

On Friday three helicopters and three Piranha boats attacked a Panamanian-flag ship, the Homin, with rocket and artillery fire. The ship was loading sugar in the Port of Sandino. Most of the 10 rockets fired by the attackers were aimed at the ship, but none hit their target. Nicaraguan coast guard and patrol vessels opened fire on the enemy ships, and antiaircraft defenses fired at the helicopters.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has charged that these actions are an indiscriminate aggression that violates the basic norms of international law and that they are sponsored by the United States in its attempt to impose a blockade against Nicaragua as part of its plans against the Sandinist People's revolution.

NICARAGUA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA ISSUE COMMUNIQUE

PA012345 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Czechoslovakia and Nicaragua have condemned the policy of force being imposed by the United States in Central America and warned about the danger of such a policy to peace in that region and the world over. The above is contained in a joint communique released in Prague at the end of the Nicaraguan delegation's visit to Czechoslovakia. The delegation was headed by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, member of the FSLN State Committee and Nicaraguan planning minister.

In the document, Czechoslovakia highly praises the resistance of the Nicaraguan people to the U.S. attempts to frustrate the revolutionary process in the land of Sandino. At the same time, the European socialist nation reiterated its full support and solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people in defense of its national independence.

The Czechoslovakian Foreign Ministry also issued a declaration expressing its concern over the increased aggressive actions by the United States and its agents against Nicaragua, particularly the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

NICARAGUA ON ALERT TO SAVE COTTON HARVEST

FL281425 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The Sandinist government has declared a state of emergency in Chinandega Department in Nicaragua's northwest to save approximately 700,000 quintals of cotton which might be lost due to heavy rains and a scarcity of labor. Nicaraguan officials have announced that some 7,000 secondary school students of that department will join in cotton picking and that they hope to save more than 90 percent of the current harvest.

U.S.-HONDURAN MILITARY MANEUVERS TO CONTINUE

PA011924 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] An official communique broadcast on the Honduran national radio network states that the "Grenadier I" military maneuvers, which are to be staged jointly with the United States, will begin Monday despite the resignations of General Gustavo Alvarez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, and three other high-ranking military chiefs.

Addressing the nation, Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova explained that the resignations of Gen Alvarez and the other military men were appropriate actions intended to ensure the fulfillment of the functions that the Constitution assigns to the Armed Forces. Suazo Cordova did not provide further details on the unexpected changes that have taken place in the Honduran Armed Forces where, in addition to Alvarez, General Jose Abdenego Rosa Bueso, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command; Public Security Chief General Daniel Bali; and Ruben Humberto Montoya, commanding general of the Naval Force, have also resigned.

According to an official communique released by the Honduran Government, the most recent developments in this country will not interfere with the "Grenadier I" military maneuvers, which are to be staged jointly with the United States with the participation of 1,800 American troops.

For his part, John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador in Tegucigalpa, has asserted that the United States will not suspend the joint maneuvers with Honduras. Negroponte announced this after the leading Honduran Government officials met with the diplomatic corps accredited in Tegucigalpa.

HONDURAS' ALVAREZ ARRIVES IN COSTA RICA

PA011951 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] It has been learned in San Jose that Honduran General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez has arrived in San Jose from Tegucigalpa after resigning Saturday as chief of the Honduran regime's Armed Forces. Gen Alvarez arrived in Costa Rica on a military plane accompanied by General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command; Brigadier General Daniel Bali Castillo, commanding general of the public security force; and Brigadier General Ruben Montoya, commanding general of the Naval Force.

Alvarez and his three companions who, it is asserted, were forced to resign were received at the airport by Costa Rican Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Salano, who immediately took them to an undisclosed location.

NEWS MEDIA SAY SALVADORAN ELECTIONS MANIPULATED

PA301435 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Without any explanation, the Central Electoral Council [CCE] of El Salvador has corrected reports on the results of Sunday's elections in San Vicente Department, where initially it gave ultrareactionary Roberto D'Aubuisson as the winner. A few hours later it said that the real winner was Jose Napoleon Duarte, Christian Democratic Party, PDC, leader. Roberto Meza Delgado, CCE vice president, could not explain to newsmen the reasons for the change, although he had previously announced D'Aubuisson's victory. That is what I was told and that is what I reported, he explained.

Some news media commented that this action is definite proof that the results of Sunday elections are being manipulated. The elections were characterized by disorganization, inefficiency, and fraud. Despite proof of this, U.S. President Ronald Reagan sent congratulations to Alvaro Magana, chief of the Salvadoran regime, for what he considered the election's good organization.

Salvadoran PDC spokesmen believe that abstention in Sunday's election was approximately 50 percent. Preliminary figures show that PDC presidential candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte is ahead in the vote count. However, Duarte will not obtain the votes necessary to be elected. Therefore, a second round of elections will be held within 30 days.

The guerrillas did not participate in the elections and continued harassing the Army in various sectors in the Departments of Cabana, La Union, San Vicente, Chalatenango, and Morazan. Representatives of the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission said in Mexico City that the Sunday elections in El Salvador were a total failure of U.S. policy in this Central American country. Ruben Zamora, Salvadora Samayoa, Hector Oqueli, and Mario Aguinada said the elections were held in a climate of conflict resulting from the offensive launched by the Salvadoran regime's Army, supported and directed by the Pentagon. They said that the electoral farce was directly financed by the United States at a cost of more than $10 million. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering personally directed the CCE activities.

Ramsey Clark, an influential U.S. politican who is currently in charge of a private foundation, said on his return to Washington after attending the elections in El Salvador that the elections were a fraud and a sad example for democracy. Clark, who headed a delegation of four observers from the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, said that the only alternative for the U.S. Government was to immediately stop sending arms to the Salvadoran regime and to seriously support the Contadora Group efforts.

Mexican Senator Alejandro Sobarso Loaiza said that there cannot be free elections in El Salvador as long as there is a war. Only if the principle of non-intervention is strictly observed can the Salvadoran people freely exercise their right to self-determination, he added.

PANAMA NOT PARTICIPATING IN MILITARY MANEUVERS

PA301715 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The Panamanian foreign minister has announced that its country will not participate in the Grenadier I military maneuvers organized by the United States, which are scheduled to begin in April in Honduras and other Caribbean regions. A communique issued in the Panamanian capital affirms that the National Defense Forces are engaged in guaranteeing the nation's internal peace and are committed to contributing to the normal development of the electoral process. The note reiterates that Panama adheres to the principles of peaceful coexistence and the observance of the principles of international law in reference to international relations.

CHILEAN OPPOSITION DEMANDS PINOCHET'S DISMISSAL

PA020604 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The Chilean moderate opposition, in conjunction with the Democratic Alliance, is willing to back any government that will call for legislative and presidential elections with the only condition that tyrant Augusto Pinochet leave his post as head of the government. The statement was made by (Julio Estuardo), representative of the Socialist Party, before the Democratic Alliance coalition and reproduced by the Spanish newspaper DIARIO 16 in its latest edition.

GRENADA

SPECIAL COURT FOR PRG LEADERS' HEARING

FL021554 Bridgetown CANA in English 1735 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 1 (CANA) -- Grenada's Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon has moved to have the preliminary hearing of charges against 20 former political and military leaders, who are accused of murder and conspiracy to commit murder, take place in a special Magistrate's Court.

Sir Paul, in an extraordinary issue of the GOVERNMENT GAZETTE dated March 29, designated a former community centre located about 400 metres from the Richmond Hill Prisons -- where the former leaders are held -- to be a Magistrate's Court.

According to the GAZETTE the building will remain a Magistrate's Court until further notice.

Well-placed security personnel here said that because of security problems it was decided that the preliminary inquiry into the charges would be held outside the City Court.

Anong those charged are former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, and ex-Army Commander General Hudson Austin. They have been accused of involvement in the murder of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half his cabinet last October 19.

Bishop was killed during an Army takeover last October. Those gunned down with him included Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Housing Minister Norris Bain, and Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman.

Austin headed the short-lived military junta which took over from Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

The arrests took place during a U.S.-led invasion of Grenada last October that toppled the military government.

VOTER REGISTRATION TO BEGIN; PROCEDURES DETAILED

FL021556 Bridgetown CANA in English 1733 GMT 1 Apr 84

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 1 (CANA) -- About 266 enumerators and photographers will tomorrow begin visiting households in Grenada to register persons eligible to vote in the next general elections, planned for later in the year.

Those persons charged with carrying out the enumeration exercise, to run until May 12, were trained for two weeks by experts from Barbados and Jamaica.

"We have got our enumerators and photographers and equipment all on spot to have our men and women take off on Monday morning from about eight o'clock and going right through the day," Supervisor of Elections Roy Chasteau, remarked.

Grenada has 15 constituencies and Chasteau said the enumeration exercise would be thorough. For the first time, potential voters are being provided with an identification card -- a move aimed at reducing the incidence of fraud.

Chasteau also said he expected there would be "a few snags and rough edges to be ironed out" in the early stages of the enumeration process, but noted that the electoral experts from Barbados and Jamaica would be out in the field to take care of these problems.

Grenada's last election was in 1976, when Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) won nine of the 15 seats at stake. The GULP, a right-wing party, was ousted by the leftist New Jewell Movement (NJM) of Maurice Bishop in a March, 1979 coup.

During feuding between moderates, including Bishop, and Marxist hardliners in the NJM, the Army took power last October, but the junta was quickly unseated in a U.S.-led, Caribbean-supported invasion.

Last November a caretaker government was set up to take the island into general elections, a date for which is yet to be set.

Commenting on reports that some Grenadians would be hostile to those persons conducting the enumeration, Chasteau said he did not believe Grenadians were silly because enumeration was important and having a fair and free voters list was an ingredient for a proper future government.

"We must have an election. We must have a new government to take care of the future of Grenada, and it cannot be done under this temporary Advisory Government and Peace-keeping Force and all that sort of thing," he said.

"We are going to ask the people of Grenada to look at this, to think it over carefully, to know it is a duty that they have to vote to get their new government in, which we hope would be a very intelligent and hard-working administration," Chasteau added.

To be eligible to vote, persons must be a citizen of Grenada or a national of Commonwealth countries who has resided here for at least one year immediately before the date of registration. They must also be 18 years or older before September 1, 1984.

JAMAICA

PNP'S MANLEY CALLS FOR FIXED EXCHANGE RATES

FL302158 Bridgetown CANA in English 1756 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30 (CANA) -- Jamaica's main opposition political party has called for a return to a fixed exchange rate for the local dollar and a priority allocation system for scarce foreign currency to help halt what it charged was unprecedented economic deterioration here under inappropriate and flip-flop policy government measures.

Ex-Prime Minister Michael Manley, who heads the People's National Party (PNP) said too that Jamaica must seek to renegotiate and reschedule its 1.7 billion U.S. dollars foreign debt, since this was vital "if we are to have any breathing space for the economy."

Since last November's 43 per cent devaluation the value of the Jamaica dollar has fallen steadily, the latest decline, 4 per cent, coming at yesterday's Central Bank auction under government's latest system for foreign exchange allocation.

"We should have a fixed exchange rate to facilitate planning and to remove the present uncertainty," Manley, who was prime minister between 1972 and 1980, told reporters Thursday night.

"Even if a country has to devalue, it is better to do so in a firm manner, fixing the point of exchange from time to time as necessity may demand." He said that the scarce foreign exchange should also be allocated on a priority basis to the various sectors of the economy.

Jamaica's severe foreign exchange shortage has forced the Edward Seaga government into regularly shifting economic policy measures, dubbed by Manley as "piece-meal" and "half-baked."

Manley argued that the heart of Jamaica's difficulties was a balooning trade deficit, which required "strong management of our balance of payments."

His government had in 1980 held its trade deficit at 74 million U.S. dollars, about three per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) compared with 478 million U.S. dollars, over 20 per cent of GDP, in 1982 under Seaga. "No economy in the world can stand such an outpouring of net foreign exchange, Manley declared.

He said that between 1981 and 1983, the Seaga government had borrowed over 1.2 billion U.S. dollars, which was "squandered in riotous consumerism."

Manley said that the economic prospects for 1984 were worse than last year's.

Seaga policies were responsible for a near 13 per cent decline in Jamaica's exports to Caribbean Community (Caricom) markets between January and February and a projected overall drop of 10 per cent during 1984, he said.

He expected non-traditional exports to non-Caricom markets would decline by 16 per cent this year, one upshot being continuing lay-offs in the private and public sectors as well as plant closures that would increase unemployment estimated by the PNP at 30 per cent.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTER ON INCREASED DRUG ADDICTION, TRAFFICKING

FL301525 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] In Trinidad, Health Minister Nevil Connell has announced a campaign against the dramatic increase in the availability of cocaine in Trinidad. Mr Connell said illegal drug trafficking organizations were attempting to penetrate the lucrative Trinidad market where health services are having to cope with a surge in drug addiction.

He added that the cultivation and use of marijuana was also cause for concern. Police commissioner Randolph Burroughs said that 13 murders in recent months were drug-related.

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA TREES SEIZED -- Port of Spain, Trinidad, Mar 26, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago police have seized about one million marijuana trees and arrested 25 persons in two simultaneous operations mounted by Commissioner Randolph Burroughs over the past few days. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1822 GMT 26 Mar 84 FL]